Local Health Departments Response to Infant Formula Shortage 2022

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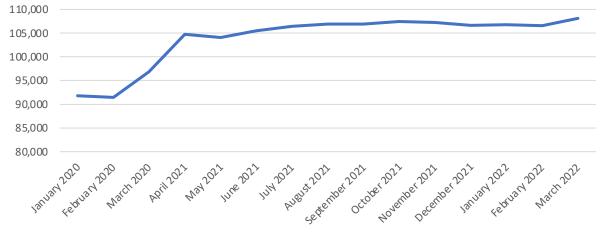
Kentucky Health Departments Association

# Current Status of WIC in KY



WIC participation increased by 18% from January 2020 to March 2022.

Total Participation in WIC, January 2020-March2022





From this to this



Nov 1, 2021	Nov 2021- Dec 2021	Nov 2021- Dec 2021	Feb. 17, 2022	Feb. 17, 2022	Feb. 23- May 18, 2022	April 2022	Early May 2022	May 22, 2022	
Formula change to Similac as WIC BID	Began seeing formula shortages	Drop Shipment of Sample Formula received as limited option during shortage	Significant Similac recall	Began WIC pkg changes to replace with non- recalled formula	More can size and brand options added to WIC choices	Nationwide formula shortage at 30%	Nationwide formula shortage at 43%	Nationwide formula shortage at 70%	

May 2022-Government began Operation Fly Formula to bring in safe formula from other countries-the first plane brought medically fragile formula to be given out through hospitals, pharmacies and doctors' offices. 2<sup>nd</sup> plane also brought hypoallergenic and specialty formulas in late May.

#### Timeline



Notification to the Public: Abating the Threat



- LHDs began pushing information out to the public regarding the recall.
- LHD environmental staff perform inspections and assure that recalled formula is taken off the shelves of retail food establishments.
- LHDs work with community partners that may house formula such as food banks, pregnancy crisis centers, etc.

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A RECALL: Information for WIC Participants

If you have purchased recalled infant formula (Similac®, Alimentum®, and/ or EleCare®) with WIC benefits, you ... See More



## LHDs Navigating for WIC Participants



- Contact LHD to change recall formula package
- 24 hour/7days a week emergency service number availability
- Increase in WIC calls due to formula recall
- Affecting our most vulnerable population
- Adjustment of clinic schedules
- Flexibility of package changes

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#### Lincoln Trail District Health ... Department

WIC families: You can call your local health department about switching your infant's formula to what is available at your local store. Contact information for all of our county health centers is available on our website. For a complete li... See More

WIC families can contact their **local health department** for information on formula changes.

The **WIC Shopper App** can help families find other stores in their area that will accept WIC.

#### WIC families have help.

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# LHDs Assisting Families in Locating Formula



- Waivers have allowed non-contract formulas and various sizes through August 31st.
- Making numerous food package changes, sometimes while parent is in the store.
- Adjusting back as more Similac formula reaches shelves.
- WIC Shopper App has been helpful in updating clients on their options.
- Creating Systems to locate available formula

# Homemade Formula: The Second Threat

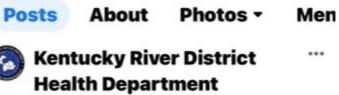


#### Do not feed your baby cow's milk or

other non-dairy milks until 1 year old, unless you've talked to your child's pediatricián.

- Don't make homemade infant formula or water down formula; there are serious health and safety concerns.
- Do not buy formula online that comes from outside the U.S., which could be counterfeit, have a fake label or a wrong use-by date.
- Do not buy formula online from unfamiliar sources. which could be fake or dangerous.

#### Kentucky River Distric... 🙆 Q <



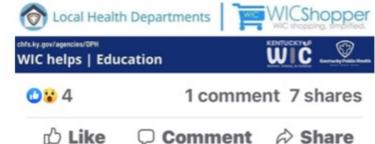
May 20 · 🕥

#### Homemade infant formula can cause harm to your baby.

Kentucky WIC does not recommend parents and caregivers make homemade infant formulas because of serious health and safety concerns

Homemade formulas increase the risk of contamination and may provide few to no important nutrients for health, growth and development.

Homemade formulas can cause severe nutritional imbalances and foodborne illnesses, both of which can be life-threatening.



Comment 

## Next Steps Questions

- Continue to monitor formula availability
- Continue waivers as long as permitted



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- Educate clients as we transition back to contract formula
- Continue to educate clients and the public to reduce risks to infants' health!

