



## TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES

KIRK COLE  
INTERIM COMMISSIONER

P.O. Box 149347  
Austin, Texas 78714-9347  
1-888-963-7111  
TTY: 1-800-735-2989  
[www.dshs.state.tx.us](http://www.dshs.state.tx.us)

Date: November 23, 2015

### HEALTH ADVISORY:

Please report *Cronobacter sakazakii* infections in infants

The Texas Department of State Health Services is requesting that healthcare providers and laboratories **promptly report infections with *Cronobacter sakazakii* (formerly *Enterobacter sakazakii*) from infants (< 12 months)** to their respective local health department or the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Within the past week, two cases of *Cronobacter* infection have been reported to the Texas Department of State Health Services. It is not clear if the two cases are related to a common source. Both infants had consumed powdered infant formula, but it is not known whether either of them was exposed to *Cronobacter* through powdered infant formula. Investigation is ongoing into whether these two infants shared exposures.

*C. sakazakii* rarely causes human illness but can cause infant septicemia and severe meningitis that typically result in long-term neurological sequelae or death. *Cronobacter* is ubiquitous in the environment and has been found in many foods, including powdered infant formula and water. Rare outbreaks of neonatal disease have been associated with contaminated powdered infant formula.

Infants with *Cronobacter* infection typically present with symptoms and signs of bacteremia or meningitis. Diagnostic evaluation and treatment should be guided by the clinical presentation.

Healthcare providers and laboratories should promptly report infections with *Cronobacter sakazakii* from infants (< 12 months) to their respective local health department or the Texas Department of State Health Services (Phone: 1-800-705-8868, Fax: 512-776-7616).

Additional Information about *Cronobacter* is available at: <http://www.cdc.gov/cronobacter/>