



February 22, 2022

Vendor News Flash

Vendor Guidance on Voluntary Formula Recall

To help mitigate the issues created by the Similac infant formula recall, Texas WIC encourages grocers to use the maximum flexibility possible to ensure WIC participants receive safe formula. Texas WIC is adding additional Universal Product Codes (UPCs) to the Authorized Product List (APL) to enable more formula options at the register for WIC clients. Texas WIC encourages the vendor community to allow any suitable Similac branded product that has not been recalled. Where that is not possible, please allow any other formula the WIC client presents that will scan through to be redeemed.

If a participant still can't get the needed formula with the added UPCs, stores can decrement the card for the formula the WIC client was originally issued and replace with comparable sizes and brands, or combinations of sizes and brands, to come up with similar total ounces for participants. While we want participants to get full benefits wherever possible, a few ounces above or below is an acceptable substitution.

As you all know, there are regulations requiring WIC items to only be exchanged for the exact item in form and size. Through March, there will be no sanctions for issuing different brands or sizes of formula to accommodate for WIC participant needs.

All vendors are asked to download the APL on Tuesday, February 22 to be certain the added formulas will scan at the register. Please continue to download the APL every 48 hours, at a minimum, for any further additions.

Also, as a reminder, in the event a WIC participant returns a can of recalled infant formula, they have the same rights as all other consumers under this recall and should be treated like all other customers. You are not required to



determine whether a product was purchased with WIC benefits as a part of the exchange process.

To help ensure adequate formula supply for infants across Texas, vendors are encouraged to implement strategies that help maintain adequate stock of formula that is not impacted by this recall. Please use methods that work best for your organization to help meet the needs of your local community.

In light of this situation, Texas WIC is very appreciative of the decisive leadership vendors have shown to ensure food is available to infants in Texas. For questions regarding this Vendor News Flash, please contact the Vendor Management Unit's Vendor Outreach Branch at WICVendorRelations@hhs.texas.gov or 1-800-252-9629. Find more WIC vendor resources on our [website](#).