



Support and engage people directly impacted by foodborne illness and mobilize them to help prevent illness and death by driving change through advocacy, collaboration and innovation.

## Stop Foodborne Illness

March 7, 2022

Dr. Rochelle P. Walensky  
Director  
U.S. Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention

Dr. Robert M. Califf  
Commissioner  
U.S. Food and Drug Administration

Drs. Walensky and Califf,

Stop Foodborne Illness (STOP), the “Voice for Safe Food,” represents all consumers and works to prevent foodborne disease. I am writing to call for *Cronobacter sakazakii* to be added to the Nationally Notifiable Disease List.

The current international infant formula recall, which has been linked to illnesses in at least five children and has been linked to the tragic deaths of two infants, calls for an urgent and expedited response. Although rare, *Cronobacter sakazakii* is extremely deadly to infants younger than three months of age, yet it is *not* included in CDC’s important pathogens that local and state health partners must report identifying.

The lack of inclusion of this devastating pathogen on the Nationally Notifiable Disease List only adds to the potential of underreporting of illnesses, making it difficult for epidemiologists to do their important job of identifying clusters of illnesses to better understand sources and root causes of outbreaks. Lack of reporting also reduces the chances that FDA will become aware of incidents that need swift response and corrective action to protect infants.

Federal agencies have focused their efforts on infant and maternal health for detection of *Listeria monocytogenes*; STOP appeals to both agencies to institute the same standards for *Cronobacter sakazakii*. There must be equivalent surveillance for both deadly bacteria.

Now is the time to act. How can parents have trust in a system that does not protect the most vulnerable?

Sincerely,

Mitzi D. Baum  
CEO