



County of Santa Cruz

HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY

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DISEASE CONTROL UNIT

Botulism in Baby Food

February 20, 2007

For immediate release:

Contact: Communicable Disease Unit
(831) 454-4114

Local Public Health Officials Warn Against Consumption of Certain Brands of Baby Food

INCIDENT

On February 20, 2007, Federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned consumers not to use certain jars of Earth's Best Organic 2 Apple Peach Barley Wholesome Breakfast baby food because of the risk of contamination with *Clostridium botulinum* a bacterium which can cause botulism, a life-threatening illness or death.

Consumers are warned not to use the product even if it does not look or smell spoiled.

RECOMMENDATIONS

If you have any of the specified jars in your home, you should not use them. Destroy them immediately.

INFORMATION

To date, no cases of human illness have been reported to FDA or the manufacturer in connection with this problem.

The affected product was sold in single individual jars and in variety packs (which contain 4 jars of the apple peach barley and other varieties). The food is part of the firm's "2nd Vegetables, Fruits and Blends" line intended for babies 6-months and older. The food was distributed through retail stores and sold through the Earth's Best website.

Botulism, a potentially fatal form of food poisoning, usually causes illness within 18-36 hours of exposure. Initial indication of illness in infants is decreased frequency or absence of stools. Other signs and symptoms noted are poor feeding, weak suck, lethargy, listlessness, weak cry, decreased body tone, and diminished overall movement. Difficulty with swallowing may be evident as drooling from the mouth. This may be followed by decreased respiratory effort, which may lead to respiratory arrest from airway occlusion from unswallowed secretions. Older populations who may be consuming the product as part of a pureed diet might experience symptoms such as blurred vision, dizziness, dry mouth, and progressive weakness from head to legs. Constipation and urinary retention are also common. Caregivers or people observing these problems should seek immediate medical attention for those affected.

RECALL STATUS AND FOR MORE INFORMATION

Hain Celestial Group initiated a recall of the food on 9 Feb 2007. The recall is ongoing.

The affected baby food is as follows:

- Earth's Best Organic 2 Apple Peach Barley Wholesome Breakfast (4.5 ounce jars); UPC: 23923-20223; Lid: PF6J14 NP; Exp: 14 SEP 08 A
- Earth's Best Organic 2 Wholesome Breakfast Variety Pack (12 pack); UPC: 23923-20295; Exp: 13 SEP 08
- Earth's Best Organic 2 Apple Peach Barley (4.5 ounce jars within 12 pack) UPC: 23923-20223 Lid: PF6J14 NP; Exp: 14 SEP 08 A

For additional information please contact Santa Cruz County Environmental Health at 831-454-2022.

For more information see: <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01563.html> (press releases);
[Photos: Earth's Best Organic 2 Apple Peach Barley Wholesome Breakfast Baby Food](#)

Health Alert: conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.

Health Update: provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.