



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Larry Hogan, Governor · Boyd K. Rutherford, Lt. Governor · Dennis R. Schrader, Secretary

February 21, 2022

Dear WIC Authorized Vendor,

This letter is official correspondence from the Maryland WIC Program granting flexibility from WIC federal requirements and vendor agreement terms and conditions as a result of the Abbott infant formula recall. The Maryland WIC Program has been granted a waiver from the federal requirement that prohibits WIC authorized vendors from providing exchanges or substitutions of products purchased with WIC benefits.

During the Abbott infant formula recall, WIC authorized vendors must treat all customers, including WIC customers, the same with regard to the recall exchange process. Your store is permitted to offer exchanges and substitutions which may include, but are not limited to, the same product, a substitute product, store credit, or a cash refund. WIC authorized vendors are NOT required to, nor does WIC recommend that your store determine whether a product was purchased using WIC benefits.

Also, since Similac contracted products currently have limited availability, the Maryland WIC Program has been granted permission to issue alternative infant formulas to support participant needs. The Program will be issuing different forms of Similac contract infant formula including ready-to-feed and concentrate and have also been granted authority to issue non-contract brands such as Enfamil Infant and Gerber Good Start.

We reiterate that WIC participants should be treated the same as all your store customers with respect to this infant formula recall.

The Maryland WIC Program appreciates updates you are sharing - please keep those updates coming so we can respond to the situation and ensure families are able to feed their babies. Likewise, if you have questions or need assistance in serving WIC customers, please contact us at mdh.WICvendor@maryland.gov.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Wilson, MEd, RD, LDN
Director
Maryland WIC Program