



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

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COUNTY ISSUES WARNING ABOUT VOLUNTARY RECALL OF EARTH'S BEST ORGANIC APPLE PEACH BARLEY BABY FOOD

Risk of Contamination with Botulism Bacteria Being Investigated; Health and Human Services Agency Continues Surveillance

The San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency (HHS), on the heels of a warning from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), urges consumers to avoid using Earth's Best Organic 2 Apple Peach Barley Wholesome Breakfast baby food due to the risk of contamination with *Clostridium botulinum*, a bacterium that can cause botulism.

The product was sold in single individual jars and in variety packs, and was distributed through retail stores and sold through the Earth's Best website. No illnesses have been reported to FDA or the manufacturer, Hain Celestial Group, which initiated a recall of the baby food earlier this month. Lid number for the affected baby food is PF6J14NP. To see the FDA release:

<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2007/NEW01566.html>

"There have been no reported local illnesses related to this recall to date, but we are alerting the public because botulism can be fatal," said Wilma Wooten, M.D., M.P.H., San Diego County Public Health Officer. "This product could have been consumed by infants and older adults who may have eaten the baby food as part of a pureed diet. Anyone who experiences symptoms of botulism should immediately contact their physician."

Symptoms may occur within six hours to two weeks (most commonly between 12 and 36 hours). They include double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness that moves down the body. If not treated, death may occur due to respiratory failure. Botulism associated with a commercial product is rare.

The County Department of Environmental Health (DEH) has been in contact with the manufacturer and FDA regarding the recall. "We have followed up with local stores to ensure that they know about the FDA warning," said Gary Erbeck, Director, DEH.

For more information on botulism, contact HHS Community Epidemiology at (619) 515-6620.

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