

Gold Star Distribution Inc. WIC Local Agency Guidance and Resources

JANUARY 6, 2026

Overview

On December 26, 2025, Gold Star Distribution, Inc. recalled all FDA regulated products listed in this announcement [Gold Star Distribution Inc., Issues Recall of Certain FDA-Regulated Products in Three States Including Drugs, Devices, Cosmetics, Human Foods, and Pet Foods](#) due to the presence of rodent and avian contamination. Gold Star supplies food and infant formula products to some small WIC-authorized stores in Minnesota. No illnesses associated with this recall have been reported to date.

Persons handling or consuming the products could become seriously ill due to contamination from pests, including rodents, birds, and insects. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) determined that the facility was operating under insanitary conditions, including the presence of rodent excreta, rodent urine, and bird droppings in areas where medical devices, drugs, human food, pet food, and cosmetic products were held. These conditions create a significant risk that products held at the facility may have been contaminated with filth and harmful microorganisms.

Counties with impacted stores

- Hennepin
- Dakota
- Ramsey
- Olmsted
- Bloomington
- Anoka
- Stearns and surrounding counties
- Scott

Guidance for WIC local agencies

- **WIC recommends communicating about this recall to WIC participants who are concerned**, since the stores included in the recall announcement only serve a small portion of WIC participants in the state. **Share the information below if a participant reaches out with concerns/questions.**

Emphasize:

- No illnesses have been reported to date.
- Stress the importance of proper hand washing techniques when handling food packaging. Touching a contaminated package and then preparing food or formula can pose a risk of cross contamination.

What if someone thinks they may have a recalled product:

- Participants concerned about having a product at home that was included in the recall should contact the store where they purchased the product for more information.
- Participants with recalled products should destroy them as soon as possible.
- Participants should contact their physician or health care provider if they have experienced any illness or symptoms that may be related to using these products.
- WIC cannot reissue items on the WIC card.

What are symptoms of concern:

There are numerous hazards associated with rodents including the potential presence of *Salmonella*. Healthy persons infected with *Salmonella* often experience fever, diarrhea (which may be bloody), nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. In rare circumstances, infection with *Salmonella* can result in the organism getting into the bloodstream and producing more severe illnesses.

- For more information refer to [Salmonellosis \(Salmonella\)](#).

Stores and products included in the recall

- See link [Gold Star Distribution Inc. Issues Recall of Certain FDA-Regulated Products in Three States Including Drugs, Devices, Cosmetics, Human Foods, and Pet Foods](#) for details and a list of stores and full list of recalled products.

Additional resources

Minnesota Department of Health resources

- [Causes and Symptoms of Foodborne Illness](#)
- [Reporting Suspected Foodborne and Waterborne Illness](#)

Centers for Disease Control and prevention resources

- [Infant Formula Preparation and Storage](#) - safe handling instructions for infant formula
- [About handwashing](#)

Reference – Complete Listing of Hyperlinks

[Gold Star Distribution Inc., Issues Recall of Certain FDA-Regulated Products in Three States Including Drugs, Devices, Cosmetics, Human Foods, and Pet Foods](https://www.fda.gov/safety/recalls-market-withdrawals-safety-alerts/gold-star-distribution-inc-issues-recall-certain-fda-regulated-products-three-states-including-drugs)

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[U.S. Food and Drug Administration](https://www.fda.gov/) (<https://www.fda.gov/>)

[Gold Star Distribution - Multiple Brand Names and Products](https://www.fda.gov/media/190382/download?attachment)

(<https://www.fda.gov/media/190382/download?attachment>)

[Salmonellosis \(Salmonella\)](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/salmonellosis/index.html)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/salmonellosis/index.html>)

[Causes and Symptoms of Foodborne Illness](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/basics.html)

(<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/basics.html>)

[Reporting Suspected Foodborne and Waterborne Illness: Foodborne and Waterborne Illness](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/reporting.html)

[Complaints](https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/reporting.html) (<https://www.health.state.mn.us/diseases/foodborne/reporting.html>)

[Infant Formula Preparation and Storage | Infant and Toddler Nutrition](https://www.cdc.gov/infant-toddler-nutrition/formula-feeding/preparation-and-storage.html)

(<https://www.cdc.gov/infant-toddler-nutrition/formula-feeding/preparation-and-storage.html>)

[About Handwashing](https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/about/index.html) (<https://www.cdc.gov/clean-hands/about/index.html>)

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