

# WIC Matters Newsletter for Vendors

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## Information on the Abbott Formula Recall

Abbott announced the recall of multiple products from the Sturgis, Michigan plant on February 18<sup>th</sup>. If you have not yet determined if your inventory includes recalled products, please visit the Abbott website: <https://www.abbott.com/consumer/abbott-powder-formula-recall.html> or <https://www.similacrecall.com>. You may also call 1-800-986-8540. Call 1-800-551-5838 to set up product return and to credit your store.

## Abbott Recall Has a Big Impact on Minnesota Families

Minnesota WIC continues to temporarily expand our formula flexibility as the Abbott recall impacts all the major formula manufacturers and distributors. In Minnesota, there has been intermittent shortages of formula on shelves, which has impacted families with infants.

Minnesota WIC has approved many alternatives to the normal WIC formulas. The substitutions can be found at this link:

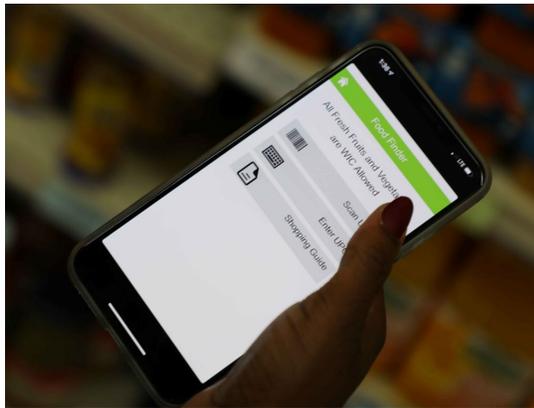
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/localagency/recall/substitutions.pdf>.

Can sizes vary, and the WIC card will deduct the correct number of smaller cans based on the size of the substitution.

- **29oz or larger cans will deduct 3 cans from the participant's benefits.**
- **28oz or smaller cans will deduct 1 can from the participant's benefits.**

## How Can Participants and Stores Find the Substitutes?

Participants are **highly encouraged** to scan items with their registered My Minnesota WIC app to see if a formula is approved for them. Formula substitution lists are available in the app under “Shopping Tips”.



It is also possible to look up formula substitutions in the Minnesota WIC APL: <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/wic/vendor/fpchgng/upc/index.html>. Substitutions can be found under the “Formula Recall Substitutes” tab. Each contract formula has its own substitutions. To find the substitutions approved for a certain formula type, please see the far left “G” column in the APL spreadsheet.

- Only certain substitutions are allowed, depending on the formula type. For example, the substitutions for Similac Advance are not approved as substitutions for Similac Sensitive, and vice versa.
- The WIC card will decline substitutions not allowed for the specific formula type available in the participant’s benefits.

## Minnesota WIC is Adjusting for Price Increases

Minnesota WIC uses data from prices charged for WIC foods to increase maximum prices for WIC when needed. We can increase those maximums when we see the prices increasing at stores. Prices are increased based on store type. So, smaller stores are grouped with their peers when we look at prices, and larger stores are grouped with their peers. This allows us to set a different maximum price for each store type to ensure fairness. Minnesota WIC no longer publishes their maximum price list for this reason. We encourage stores to charge WIC customers the same price as customers paying with a different method.

## Stores May Need to Update their APL (Approved Product List)

Some stores may need to update their APL (Approved Product List) to make sure the UPCs for the formula substitutes will ring up in their systems. For medium, independent stores, this may include contacting your POS service provider, if you see that substitutes are not ringing up. For stores with stand-beside terminals, you must manually update the APL.

Those instructions can be found here:

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/wic/vendor/comm/aplquickref.pdf>



For vendor related questions or concerns, please email [health.wicvendor@state.mn.us](mailto:health.wicvendor@state.mn.us)



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