

What it is?

- *Cronobacter sakazakii* is a pathogen found naturally in the environment that can cause foodborne illness
- It can live on surfaces (e.g. kitchen counters, sinks, breast pumps, bottles, and food manufacturing equipment)
- It's particularly good at surviving in dry products like powdered infant formula or milk, herbal teas, and starches
- It's harmless to most people, but can cause life threatening infections in infants

Why it is difficult to identify?

- *Cronobacter sakazakii* is ubiquitous, which makes it difficult to identify specific sources of infections
- *Cronobacter* infections are only reportable in two states - Minnesota and Michigan- limiting fuller understanding of public health impact
- Databases lack *Cronobacter* genetic information to definitively link clinical samples to their source- food, surfaces or environment

What is FDA doing to take action?

- Supporting listing *Cronobacter sakazakii* infection among infants as a nationally notifiable disease
- Addressing knowledge gaps through research with the National Advisory Committee on Microbiological Criteria for Foods
- Developing a strategy to prevent *Cronobacter* illnesses associated with the consumption of powdered infant formula
- Enhancing training and instructions for investigators to emphasize potential routes of *Cronobacter* contamination in powdered infant formula manufacturing

What can industry do?

- Follow recommendations in FDA's recent letter to the Powdered Infant Formula Industry reminding them of their responsibility to ensure the safety of the formula they produce and make improvements to their safety measures
- Voluntarily notify FDA any time a product sample is positive for *Cronobacter* spp. even if the affected lot(s) have not been distributed
- Conduct more frequent environmental monitoring