



Food and
Nutrition
Service

MAR 7 R 2016

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Center

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Reverend Douglas A. Greenaway, President & CEO
Ms. Jackson-Charles, Chair, Board of Directors
National WIC Association
2001 S Street NW, Suite 580
Washington, D.C. 20009-1165

Dear Reverend Greenaway and Ms. Jackson-Charles:

Thank you for your February 16, 2016, letter to Administrator Audrey Rowe on behalf of the National WIC Association (NWA). In your letter you requested that the Department of Agriculture (USDA), Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), review and revise the recommendations for preparing powdered infant formula in the *"Infant and Nutrition Feeding: A Guide for Use in the WIC and CSF Programs"* to align with recommendations from the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and to address NWA's concern about the water temperature for mixing powder formula and potential Cronobacter contamination.

We appreciated the opportunity to discuss this issue with WIC State Directors during NWA's recent Leadership Conference. As you may be aware, FNS relies on the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) as the regulatory authority for the manufacturing of infant formula and exempt infant formula, including labeling and packaging, and ensures that these products are safe and support healthy growth in infants who consume them.

FNS has consulted with FDA on the safe preparation of powdered infant formula. FDA recommends that the manufacturer's directions on the product label for mixing instructions should be followed, or the advice provided by one's health care provider.

FNS is currently revising its guidance on preparing powdered infant formula to align with FDA's recommendation that government agencies should not issue advice that is contrary to the FDA-approved labels on formulas.

Again, thank you for taking the time to contact FNS and share your comments and concerns.

Sincerely,

Diane M. Kriviski
Deputy Administrator
Supplemental Nutrition and Safety Programs