



Cronobacter

What is *Cronobacter*?

Cronobacter is a germ that is found naturally in the environment. *Cronobacter* can live in dry foods, like powdered infant formula, powdered milk, herbal teas, and starches. It has also been found in contaminated feeding items like breast pump equipment. *Cronobacter* infections are often very serious for babies who are younger than 2 months or were born prematurely. Infections can also be very serious for older people and people whose bodies have trouble fighting germs, like people with HIV, organ transplants, or cancer.

What is the burden of *Cronobacter* each year in the United States?

- 2 - 4 illness

What are common symptoms of *Cronobacter*?

- Fever
- Poor feeding
- Excessive crying
- Very low energy
- Seizures

How can I prevent *Cronobacter*?

- Breastfeed if you can.
- Clean, sanitize, and store feeding items safely.
- Do not place feeding items in the sink. Use dishwasher or clean wash-basin that you use only for washing these supplies.
- If your baby is fed with formula, use liquid infant formula if possible.
- If you use powdered infant formula, prepare and store it safely. Make sure your formula is not expired and container is in good condition.
- Keep powdered formula in the container dry to prevent germs from growing.

How are infections spread?

- Consumption of contaminated powdered infant formula
- Consumption of contaminated breast milk
- Consumption of contaminated breast pump parts