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FDA: Don't feed honey to kids younger than 1 Year *Honey Pacifiers Suspected in Texas Infant Botulism Cases*

The Kane County Health Department is advising that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration warns parents and caregivers not to give honey to infants or children younger than one year of age. This includes pacifiers filled with or dipped in honey.

The FDA has received reports from Texas that four infants have been hospitalized with botulism. All four infants had used pacifiers containing honey. These pacifiers were purchased in Mexico, but similar products also appear to be available in the U.S. through online retailers.

Botulism is a rare but serious illness caused by a toxin that attacks the body's nerves and causes difficulty breathing, muscle paralysis, and even death. This toxin is made by *Clostridium botulinum* and sometimes *Clostridium butyricum* and *Clostridium baratii* bacteria.

Honey is a known source of *Clostridium botulinum* spores, which can multiply in a baby's immature digestive system, and has previously been implicated in some cases of infant botulism. For this reason, the FDA, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the American Academy of Pediatrics recommend not feeding honey to infants younger than 12 months.

The FDA is recommending parents and caregivers do not give pacifiers filled with or dipped in honey to their infants or young children. If you have previously purchased a pacifier filled with or dipped in honey, you should stop using it and discard it immediately.

The FDA recommends online retailers discontinue sales of honey filled pacifiers. More information is available at the FDA, 10903 New Hampshire Avenue, Silver Spring, MD 20993, 1-888-INFO-FDA (1-888-463-6332) or by visiting its website [here](#).

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