

United States Senate

May 24, 2022

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

The Honorable Rochelle Walensky, MD, MPH
Director
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
1600 Clifton Road
Atlanta, GA 30333

Dear Director Walensky:

I write to request that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) swiftly work with the Council of State and Territorial Epidemiologists (CSTE) and relevant State and local public health officials to add *Cronobacter* infection in an infant to the list of national notifiable conditions tracked through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS).

The recent deadly outbreak of *Cronobacter* infections in infants is a tragic reminder of the dire threat posed by such a condition and should motivate Federal, State and local public health agencies to take decisive action to enhance surveillance and reporting of *Cronobacter* infections in infants. Our Nation's inadequate reporting system results in critical data gaps that undermine our ability to understand the true scope of *Cronobacter* infections in infants. As CDC notes:

“About two to four cases are reported to CDC every year, but this figure may not reflect the true number of illnesses. That’s because most hospitals and laboratories are not required to report *Cronobacter* infections to health departments.”

Only one State appears to require doctors and laboratories to report *Cronobacter* infection cases to public health authorities. This is unacceptable. I strongly urge CDC work with CSTE and State and local public health officials to add *Cronobacter* infant infection to the NNDSS; and educate public health officials, pediatricians and hospitals on best practices to effectively identify and report *Cronobacter* infections in infants.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my urgent request that CDC establish a national reporting and surveillance system for *Cronobacter* infections in infants.

Sincerely,



Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator