

## ***Cronobacter sakazakii* meningitis in infants – U.S., March 2011**

### **Current Situation:**

On April 14, 2011, the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) alerted provincial authorities of two cases of *Cronobacter sakazakii* (formerly known as *Enterobacter sakazakii*) meningitis in Michigan (one illness) and Ohio (one illness) with estimated onset dates of March 25th and March 26th, 2011, respectively. The two cases were 11 and 54 days old at illness onset. Typically, the United States Centre for Diseases Control and Prevention is aware of approximately four cases annually; therefore, they deemed it unusual to be notified of two infant cases with similar onset dates. In the past, infection with *C. sakazakii* has been linked with post-processing contamination of milk-based infant formula.

Although there is no surveillance for *C. sakazakii* in Canada, at this time the Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (MOHLTC) would like to have all confirmed cases of *C. sakazakii* reported to local health units and subsequently to the province.

**Please note acute meningitis of bacterial origin is reportable to the Medical Officer of Health. Any cases of suspect or confirmed acute meningitis should be reported to Toronto Public Health at the main surveillance reporting line 416-392-7411 (work hours) or 3-1-1 (after hours).**

### Acute Meningitis case definition

#### **Confirmed Case**

Clinically compatible signs and symptoms of meningitis with:

Isolation of an organism (i.e., bacterial, viral or other) from an appropriate clinical site (e.g., cerebrospinal fluid [CSF], blood)

**OR**

Detection of antigen (i.e., bacterial, viral or other) from an appropriate clinical site (e.g., CSF, blood)

**OR**

Detection of nucleic acid (i.e., bacterial, viral or other) from an appropriate clinical site (e.g., CSF, blood)

**OR**

Serologic confirmation of infection with an organism known to cause meningitis.