

[Botulism](#)

Sources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infants: Honey and products containing honey, such as infant pacifiers filled with or dipped in honey.• Infants, children and adults: Improperly home-canned or preserved foods, including low-acid vegetables and fermented fish; improperly canned commercial foods; herb-infused oils, baked potatoes in aluminum foil, cheese sauce, bottled garlic.
Incubation period	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infants: 3-30 days• Children and adults: 18-36 hours
Symptoms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infants: Lethargy, poor feeding, constipation, weak crying, poor muscle tone (appear "floppy").• Children and adults: Double vision, blurred vision, drooping eyelids, slurred speech, difficulty swallowing, dry mouth, and muscle weakness.
Duration of illness	Variable
What to do	Botulism is a medical emergency. If you have symptoms of botulism, see your doctor or go to the emergency room immediately.
Prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Follow safe home canning instructions provided by the National Center for Home Preservation.• Consult with your local Cooperative Extension Service. Most offices have a food safety specialist that can help home canning advice.• Do not feed honey or give honey pacifiers to children younger than 12 months.

Date Last Reviewed September 19, 2023