| **Sources** | **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. |
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| **Incubation period** | **Infants**: 3-30 days  
**Children and adults**: 18-36 hours |
| **Symptoms** | **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** | Follow safe home canning instructions provided by the [National Center for Home Preservation](https://www.nerdness.com/).  
Consult with your local [Cooperative Extension Service](https://www.cooperativeextension.com). 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