



Phasing Out Added Nitrites to Protect Public Health

About the Nitrite Action Network

The Nitrite Action Network is a diverse coalition of nonprofit organizations, healthcare professionals, consumer advocates, and brands committed to phasing out the use of added nitrites in processed meats to protect public health.

What We Do

Through **education**, **policy advocacy**, and **community building**, we shift consumer demand, influence institutions and policies, and advance safer, healthier nitrite-free alternatives.

Our Priorities

- 1 Ban Hidden Nitrites in “Natural” Labels:** Close the USDA loophole that lets companies use “natural curing agents” to hide synthetic nitrites.
- 2 Require Cancer Risk Warning Labels:** Mandate that all nitrite-cured processed meats carry a clear, front-of-package cancer risk warning label.
- 3 Advance Research on Alternatives to Nitrites:** Support viable commercial alternatives to nitrites and foods that can be substitutes for processed meats.
- 4 Remove Nitrites from School Lunches:** Eliminate nitrite-cured processed meats from state and federal school meal programs.
- 5 Add Nitrite-Free National Dietary Standards:** Incorporate nitrite-free dietary guidance into federal nutrition frameworks.

The Problem

Every day, roughly **20,000,000** Americans eat processed meat cured with added nitrites—products that increase the risk of serious health conditions.

The Health Risks of Nitrite Consumption

- Colorectal cancer
- Stomach cancer
- Breast cancer
- Thyroid cancer
- Blue baby syndrome
- Neurological effects
- Cardiovascular disease
- Reproductive toxicity
- Type 2 diabetes
- Manic episodes

Join the movement!

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