

Policy/Procedure #212**Breastfeeding Promotion and Support****References**

<https://mnbreastfeedingcoalition.org/laws/>

- Minn Stat 145.905
- Minn Stat 181.939
- Minn Stat 181.941
- Minn Stat 617.23

Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, H.R. 3590, 111th Congress (2010).

Public Health Law Center at William Mitchell College of Law. *Legal Protections for Nursing Mothers in Minnesota: Nursing Mothers have Legal Protections in the Workplace and In Public*; Sept 2014. www.publichealthlawcenter.org

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. *The Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding*. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Surgeon General; 2011
<http://www.surgeongeneral.gov/topics/breastfeeding/index.html>

American Academy of Pediatrics, Section on Breastfeeding, Breastfeeding and the use of human milk, *Pediatrics* 115(2):496- 506, Feb 1, 2005.
<http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/115/2/496.long>

Brueshoff, B, *Breastfeeding Friendly Health Departments Toolkit for Local Public Health and Community Partners: Building Capacity through the ten step process*. October 2014

Minnesota Department of Health. *Breastfeeding Friendly Health Departments*

Policy

Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment (PHE) supports breastfeeding as the preferred feeding option for infant nutrition and understands that alternate forms of infant feeding carry significant health, social, and economic risks to both mother and baby. The Ten Steps for Breastfeeding Friendly Health Departments have been proven to support long term breastfeeding with the goal of increasing breastfeeding initiation, duration, and exclusivity in our community and making breastfeeding the norm for infant feeding.

Procedure

As a Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department, Washington County PHE will actively promote, support and protect breastfeeding at individual, community and systems levels by using the 10 Steps for Breastfeeding Friendly Health Departments.

<http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/oshii/bf/healthdeptBFF.html>

The department collaborates with families, employers, health care providers, child care providers, and other community partners to identify and address barriers and establish supportive systems for breastfeeding mothers.

WIC and Family Health Nursing Supervisors will:

- assist in policy implementation.
- serve as a resource related to breastfeeding inquiries.
- review and revise the policy as needed to reflect current evidence-based practice.
- ensure their staff maintain accurate, current knowledge regarding breastfeeding and receive annual breastfeeding training/updates.
- assess materials created, purchased and distributed by Washington County PHE to be sure they support breastfeeding and informed decision making when discussing infant feeding practices.
- update this breastfeeding policy/procedure as needed and routinely review with department staff

All Public Health staff who serve mother-baby dyads will:

- become familiar with the breastfeeding policy.
- be responsible for acquiring skills and the knowledge necessary for maternal education, community resource awareness and the legal protections for breastfeeding mothers.
- support mothers in initiating and maintaining breastfeeding up to 12 months and beyond.

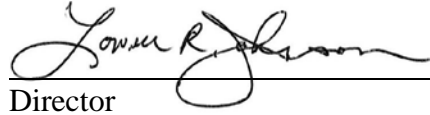
All Public Health staff working in related programs will:

- actively promote breastfeeding by providing both prenatal and post-partum education.
- create an environment that is supportive of breastfeeding with positive images of breastfeeding families along with the removal of all materials that promote the use of infant formula and baby bottles.
- provide appropriate referrals for individual breastfeeding support and classes within the community.
- continue to collaborate with and educate the community, health care providers, businesses and childcare providers on breastfeeding support to establish breastfeeding as the “norm”.
- encourage racially and ethnically diverse breastfeeding resources within the community.
- maintain the Washington County Breastfeeding Resource List, available in PHE and at <http://www.livinghealthywc.org/Breastfeeding.html> to identify health care provider/community resources for mothers experiencing common breastfeeding challenges.
- communicate the Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department written policy on breastfeeding promotion/support annually to all staff; available for review by breastfeeding families at <http://www.livinghealthywc.org/Breastfeeding.html>

All Public Health Managers and Supervisors will:

- support employees who are returning to work and need to express milk.
- inform pregnant and breastfeeding employees about workplace accommodations in accordance with state statutes.

REVIEWED AND APPROVED:


Director

1/1/2019
Date