

**Sherburne County Health and Human Services**  
**Public Health Division**  
**Breastfeeding Promotion and Support Policy**  
**February 2016**

**I. Purpose**

It is the policy of the Sherburne County Health and Human Services – Public Health Division (SCHHS-PHD) that breastfeeding will be promoted as the healthiest option for infant nutrition.

SCHHS-PHD will actively promote, support and protect breastfeeding at the individual, family, community and systems level. Information will be provided on the importance of breastfeeding, including the positive psychosocial, economic, and environmental benefits; inform individuals and the community of risk associated with not breastfeeding; and provide opportunities to increase community knowledge about infant feeding.

SCHHS-PHD will collaborate with families, employers, child care providers, health care providers and other community partners to identify and address barriers to establish supportive systems, environments and policies for mothers.

**II. Roles and Responsibilities**

- Community Health Coordinator and Lead Public Health Nurse will review policy annually and provide recommendations to PHD supervisors for modifications to reflect current evidence-based practice. All PHD staff will be informed of any revisions of the policy.
- All PHD staff providing care for the mother-baby dyad will become familiar with the breastfeeding policy at orientation and will be responsible for acquiring the skills and knowledge necessary to support policy implementation. This includes family education, community resources, awareness of cultural differences and values related to breastfeeding and legal protections for nursing mothers.

**III. Training**

- SCHHS-PHD will support continuing education for staff providing care for the mother-baby dyad. Staff will keep current with breastfeeding best practices as recommended through organizations such as Minnesota Department of Health, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Minnesota Breastfeeding Coalition, La Leche League International, etc.
- Breastfeeding updates and training opportunities will be provided at unit meetings.
- SCHHS-PHD will support advance lactation education for staff.

**IV. Breastfeeding Information and Resources**

- Accurate breastfeeding information and resources will be available for staff, families during service encounters, or per request. Information may include: importance of breastfeeding, resource list, maintaining lactation during separation, illness, work/school, current laws that support breastfeeding, etc.
- Materials created and distributed by SCHHS-PHD will be free of references to and images of infant formula and baby bottles.
- Breastfeeding mothers needing support and/or experiencing common breastfeeding challenges may be referred to Public Health Nurses and/or other breastfeeding specialists within SCHHS-PHD and/or within the community.

**V. Breastfeeding Promotion**

- Breastfeeding will be promoted as the norm for infant feeding for the first twelve months and beyond. Families' infant feeding choice will be respected.
- Breastfeeding will be promoted throughout the community and within the programs provided by the PHD such as Home Visiting, Women, Infant and Children Supplemental Food Program (WIC), Statewide Health Improvement Program (SHIP), etc. World Breastfeeding Week will be recognized in August of each year. A variety of venues will be utilized; local media, program newsletters, Facebook, County Fair, etc.

**VI. Environment**

- Breastfeeding posters and materials will be displayed at various locations throughout the Sherburne County Government Center (SCGC) and WIC Clinics.
- A Breastfeeding Friendly environment will be maintained throughout the SCGC and WIC clinics.
- Sherburne County has a Personnel Policy that includes Nursing Mother Breaks.
- Sherburne County provides a private, windowless room in the Government Center that has been outfitted and dedicated for the use of employees to express breast milk.

**VII. Signatures**



Mary Jo Cobb,  
Sherburne County Health & Human Services Director



Date