



POLICY HSS-02: Community Breastfeeding Policy

Health and Social Services

Approval Date: March 6, 2013
Approval Authority: Senior Leadership Team
Effective Date: March 6, 2013
Revision Date/s: May 4, 2016

Purpose:

The purpose of this policy is to provide a private space for breastfeeding or expressing milk when requested by mothers accessing Norfolk County buildings.

Policy Statement:

In compliance with a mandate from Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care it is required that all Public Health Units in Ontario implement and support the Baby-Friendly Initiative (BFI). This policy is also consistent with the World Health Organization (WHO) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) breastfeeding initiatives.

According to the Ontario Human Rights Commission, a breastfeeding mother has the right to breastfeed a child in a public area. The environment of County buildings should remain free from discrimination towards breastfeeding women and ensure that all community members wishing to breastfeed on County premises are supported.

Norfolk County recognizes that breastfeeding is recommended and breast milk is the most optimal food for healthy growth and development of infants. The County encourages and supports community members visiting County buildings to breastfeed in public areas of the premises.

Definitions:

Baby-Friendly Initiative:

An international program established by the WHO and UNICEF to promote, support and protect breastfeeding worldwide in hospital and in the community. The following evidence-based documents provide the foundation of the BFI:

1. Breastfeeding Committee for Canada (BCC) BFI Integrated 10 Steps Practice Outcome Indicators for Hospitals and Community Health Services
2. International Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes (The Code) and Relevant World Health Assembly (WHA) Resolutions

Implementation Procedure:

A private space will be provided when requested within Norfolk County buildings, free from distraction and complete with an electrical outlet for the purpose of breastfeeding or expressing milk. This space may change depending on room availability. A hand-washing facility will be available at all County buildings but does not need to be located within the private rooms. Privacy signs will be available to hang on the door of the room at each County building.

Appropriate signage will be posted in public areas of all County buildings indicating that Norfolk County promotes and supports breastfeeding and is in support of the Haldimand-Norfolk Health Unit working towards the Baby-Friendly Initiative designation.

Attachment:

[Privacy Sign – Do Not Disturb](#)