

# Frequently Asked Questions

## **“Do I have to allow woman to breastfeed at my business?”**

Yes. According to MN Statute 145.905 LOCATION FOR BREASTFEEDING - A mother may breastfeed in any location, public or private, where the mother and child are otherwise authorized to be, irrespective of whether the nipple of the mother's breast is uncovered during or incidental to the breastfeeding.

## **“How do I respond when a customer complains about a woman breastfeeding?”**

It is important to validate concerns as well as educate.

“I understand your concerns, but our business complies with the Minnesota Statute that protects a woman’s right to breastfeed in public anytime, anywhere. As a breastfeeding-friendly business we pledge our support for breastfeeding families and will not ask a mother to leave or cover up. If it makes you uncomfortable, I apologize.”

## **“We are a family friendly business. What about modesty?”**

This is an understandable concern. Supporting breastfeeding families actually means your supporting more families. The vast majority of women breastfeeding are actually very discreet. They simply want to feed their child without worrying about being scolded.

## **“Will my taking a stance on breastfeeding really make a difference?”**

Yes! There are many barriers women face that prevent them from meeting their breastfeeding goals. However, mothers are more successful with breastfeeding when they have a supportive environment where their live and work.

Providing a comfortable, shame-free environment for breastfeeding mothers means that more families are able to have the freedom to be away from home and enjoy their communities.

Contact information:

[pcphreferral@co.polk.mn.us](mailto:pcphreferral@co.polk.mn.us)

218-281-3385

Source: Anytime, Anywhere Coalition and Advocate Toolkit, Michigan Breastfeeding Network



# Breastfeeding is good for everyone.

#AnytimeAnywhere

## Babies & Children

- Decreases risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and necrotizing enterocolitis (NEC), leading causes of infant death
- Decreases risk of ear infections, diarrhea, pneumonia and gastroenteritis in infancy
- Reduces the incidence of childhood obesity, asthma, hypertension and some cancers
- Improves IQ, academic performance and long-term productivity

## Mothers & Families

- Decreases risk of type 2 diabetes, breast and ovarian cancers for mothers
- Saves families \$1,200 - \$1,500 on formula expenses in the first year of a baby's life
- Reduces risk of mothers developing rheumatoid arthritis, high blood pressure and high cholesterol
- Strengthens mothers' bones after weaning and reduces risk of osteoporosis

## Business & Economy

- Offers a 3-to-1 return on investment for businesses
- Helps attract valued employees and lowers turnover rates
- Boosts employee job satisfaction, morale, loyalty and productivity
- Reduces \$312 million in annual healthcare costs in the U.S.
- Results in fewer insurance claims and decreased employee absenteeism due to better infant health

## The Environment

- Reduces global carbon footprint as it generally requires no packaging, fuel to prepare, or transportation to deliver
- Does not create pollution or require disposal in a landfill
- Creates a naturally renewable food source which is a complete source of babies' nutrition for the first six months of life

Source: Anytime, Anywhere Coalition and Advocate Toolkit, Michigan Breastfeeding Network

