



## **York Region Community and Health Services Department Breastfeeding Policy**

Breastfeeding is the healthiest way to feed infants and young children and is important to the health of mothers, children, and communities. York Region Community and Health Services Department believes that families have the right to make informed decisions about feeding their infants and children. Staff will support all families in their infant feeding decisions. Breastfeeding is welcomed on all York Region premises. Our department strives to achieve the Baby-Friendly Initiative designation.

### **York Region Community and Health Services Department will support breastfeeding by:**

- Having trained staff to offer consistent breastfeeding support to families
- Providing information before and after birth to help families have success in meeting their breastfeeding goals
- Helping families continue breastfeeding through telephone and in-person breastfeeding instruction and support
- Educating families about the importance of exclusively breastfeeding for a baby's first six months, and continued breastfeeding in addition to appropriate solid foods for two years and beyond
- Linking families to breastfeeding supports available in the community, including after-hour services and mother-to-mother support groups
- Informing the community about a woman's right to breastfeed anywhere and anytime
- Ensuring that families have access to evidenced-based information and support to make informed infant feeding decisions

### **York Region Community and Health Services Department will not:**

- Use promotional items or equipment donated by the artificial baby-milk/associated feeding devices industry
- Attend or endorse educational initiatives or parenting events sponsored by the artificial baby-milk/associated feeding devices industry
- Provide artificial baby-milk to families, unless medically indicated and only in breastfeeding clinics
- Promote the use of artificial nipples and teats, unless medically indicated

**This is a guide to the York Region Community and Health Services Departmental Breastfeeding Policy. Please ask a member of staff if you wish to receive a copy of this summary or the complete Breastfeeding Policy.**



**1-800-361-5653**  
TTY (for those with hearing disabilities) **1-866-252-9933**

York Region Health Connection

**Community and Health Services**  
Public Health

**www.york.ca**

 facebook.com/YorkRegion

 @YorkRegionGovt