

# LOCAL BREASTFEEDING SUPPORTER MEETINGS COVID-19

## BREASTFEEDING SAVES LIVES, ESPECIALLY DURING EMERGENCIES.

what is happening in michigan

Black families are **dying** at alarmingly high rates.



Clinical practices and hospital systems are **not centering their needs**.

Governor Whitmer **signed Executive Orders ensuring that a partner and doula may accompany a laboring parent**.



Hospitals are creating their own policies **restricting doula support**, which is dangerous for families, especially Black and Indigenous families.

Families **continue to need lactation support** during the pandemic.



At a time when lactation support is needed the most, there are **reports across the state of lactation support programs at hospitals and health departments being downsized**.

Families are being **separated** unnecessarily.



This separation **limits breastfeeding in the maternity care setting** and **perpetuates centuries long oppression** of Black and Indigenous families.

Michigan WIC **does not have grocery delivery or pick-up options** for participants.



This **creates barriers and unnecessary danger** for already high-risk families to access their food.

## BIRTH AND BREASTFEEDING SYSTEMS MUST CENTER FAMILIES.

status of services

- Breastfeeding supporters are **forming new doula programs**.
- **Independent IBCLCs are seeing clients** and are available via telehealth and in-person.
- **Doulas are convening** to create collaborative power to dismantle oppressive systems.
- **MIBFN is here as a key collaborator** to support grassroots organizations and partners to meet the needs of families in their communities.

## INVESTING IN COMMUNITY-BASED BREASTFEEDING SUPPORT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE ANSWER.

recommendations



equitably distribute **resources**



**center Black and Indigenous families** in all covid-19 interventions



streamline **breast pump communication** with insurance, WIC, families and also physically transferring breast pump to families



create **universal birth and breastfeeding standards** that center Black and Indigenous families



establish **family-supportive hospital policies** increasing access to lactation support



**solve care access problems** for some families due to barriers including no internet access and distrust due to the current and historical exploitation of health information of Black and Indigenous peoples



increase access to **internet and hipaa-compliant telehealth** for lactation support



ensure **collaborative care** across providers and **intentional communication** on who is providing services in each community



equitably **compensate** skilled lactation care



as the pandemic unfolds, continue to provide **accessible opportunities to educate families**, free from financial burden, on breastfeeding and covid-19