

HUMAN MILK SAVES LIVES, ESPECIALLY DURING EMERGENCIES!

Human milk is safest, especially during emergencies, including the current formula recall crisis. Human milk significantly decreases risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS), pneumonia, ear infections, obesity, asthma and allergies. Access to human milk is both a racial equity and public health imperative.

FORMULA RECALL CRISIS FAQ #1: HOW DID WE GET HERE?

This crisis is the failure of our systems. It hurts families, but it was not caused by and is not the fault of families. It is NOT your fault that your baby's formula is contaminated.

- Formula companies like Abbott Laboratories are predatory and consistently use propaganda to create a harmful, dangerous dependence on their artificial breastmilk substitutes.
- Throughout North America, and specifically in Michigan, formula is being recalled because of bacteria in formula produced in Sturgis, Michigan. It is an unsafe product.
- There already was a nationwide formula shortage and now this.
- Breastfeeding support is sorely under resourced, systems are not set up for breastfeeding families, and formula is a default resource for families who are overburdened by their workplaces, childcares, the lack of paid family leave, and other systemic failures.
- There are families that are forced to continue using the recalled formula because they have no other options to feed their infants.

FORMULA RECALL CRISIS FAQ #2: WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP MY FAMILY THROUGH THIS?

There are folks throughout Michigan who want to support you.

- Work with your grocer and local WIC agency to return the affected formula. If at all possible, do not feed it to your infant.
- It is a traditional practice among Black and Indigenous families to share human milk in community. Skilled lactation supporters of the MIBFN CORE Cohort live and work throughout Michigan and can support you with community milk sharing, relactation and any breastfeeding challenges you may be experiencing.
- Call the WIC program warm-line for support from skilled lactation supporters.
 - (833) MIWICBF / (833) 649-4223 (available 7 days/week 8am – 8pm)

Attention Breastfeeding Supporters: Make no mistake - the formula recall is yet another crisis that disproportionately impacts Black and Indigenous families. Formula companies use predatory marketing tactics across Michigan. And, every community would benefit from increased access to skilled lactation support. However, these predatory marketing tactics specifically harm Black and Indigenous communities. Further, traditional breastfeeding practices have been intentionally stolen from Black and Indigenous families across centuries of slavery and genocide. This further emphasizes the reality that access to human milk is both a racial equity and public health imperative. Our work continues.

Please consider donating to Black and Indigenous-led organizations of the CORE Cohort (mibreastfeeding.org/core-cohort) who are serving families impacted by this crisis. Visit mibreastfeeding.org/donate and type the name of the organization you wish to support in the comment line.

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