



# Florence County Health Department

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## NEWS RELEASE

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### **August is National Breastfeeding Month**

Florence, WI- The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends exclusive breastfeeding for the first six months of life to provide the best benefits to an infant. The benefits are research supported including boosting the immune system of infants and reducing the risk of respiratory infection and Type 1 Diabetes. Mothers who breastfeed have lower risk of breast and ovarian cancer and postpartum depression.

We can all help increase the comfort level of mothers breastfeeding by providing a supportive environment. Mothers have a legal right to breastfeed in any public or private location where the mother or child are otherwise authorized to be, according to Wisconsin State Statute 253.165. In such a location, no person may prohibit a mother from breastfeeding her child, direct a mother to move to another location to breastfeed her child, direct a mother to cover her child or breast while breastfeeding or otherwise restrict a mother from breastfeeding.

“Improving the health of mothers and their babies increases the health of our community. We want to provide a positive environment during these critical months to the youngest in our communities and their mothers,” stated Sarah Kosmalski, Florence County WIC Registered Dietitian. Florence County Health Department can be reached at 715-528-4837, located in the Courthouse at 501 Lake Avenue or visit our website at <https://florencewipublichealth.com>.

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