



Jefferson County Breastfeeding Month 2022 Proclamation

Whereas, the mission of Jefferson County Public Health (JCPH) is to promote and protect health across the lifespan, which includes strengthening breastfeeding for a strong start for infants and young children and their families; and

Whereas, JCPH envisions breast/chest feeding, defined as providing human milk to human babies, as the biological norm for infant and young child feeding throughout Colorado and a proven primary prevention strategy that builds a foundation for life-long health; and

Whereas, major medical authorities agree that exclusive human milk feeding is recommended, for the first six months of life, with continued human milk feeding for at least two years and unless human milk substitutes are medically indicated; and

Whereas, lactation provides a safe, reliable, and renewable food source, which promotes food security and is especially critical during natural disaster and emergency situations; and

Whereas, there are racial and ethnic disparities in access to lactation support resulting in reduced breastfeeding rates and an increased risk for negative health outcomes; and

Whereas, the consistent and well-documented health, economic, and environmental benefits of human milk feeding show that this is an investment that will continue to produce measurable dividends for families, employers, and the government.

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that the Board of Health --

(1) designates August 1-31, 2022, as "Breastfeeding Month" in Jefferson County, Colorado; and

(2) supports the goals of National Breastfeeding Month and World Breastfeeding Week, including established weekly observances in recognition of aforementioned disparities: Indigenous Milk Medicine Week, Asian American Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week, and Black Breastfeeding Week; and

(3) supports policies and funding to ensure that all lactating parents can access a full range of appropriate support from childcare and health care institutions, health care insurers, employers, researchers, and government entities; and

(4) supports the dedicated volunteers, leaders, health and service providers, communities, and groups who work to support families to have optimal feeding support for their children.

Signed: Cheri Jahn
Cheri Jahn, Board of Health President

Date: July 19, 2022