



# 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 exclusively 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 and 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.

“Breastfeeding gives babies a healthy start in life. But it is not just good for babies, it is good for moms too. Help us work together to care for and encourage breastfeeding moms in our community” stated Jennifer Vaclav, 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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