

Our baby-friendly pledge to families

We are putting steps into place to ensure that all families feel safe and confident feeding their babies.



We recognize that many factors influence infant feeding decisions. We want all families to:

- Have the information they need to make feeding decisions
- Feel that their decisions are respected
- Receive support to reach their infant feeding goals

We welcome breastfeeding* any time, anywhere. Contact us at Breastfeeding@northernhealth.ca



Step 1 BABY-FRIENDLY POLICY

We protect, promote, and support breastfeeding as the optimal way to feed babies. We also respect the feeding decisions of all families.



Step 2 STAFF EDUCATION

Our staff is gaining knowledge and skills to support infant feeding.



Step 3 MAKE A PLAN

During pregnancy, we can offer families information to help with decision making and planning for infant feeding.



Step 4 SKIN-TO-SKIN

We support families to hold their babies skin-to-skin, immediately after birth and ongoing. This is important for all babies.



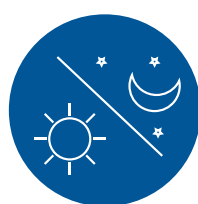
Step 5 LEARN TO BREASTFEED

We help families learn how to breastfeed, and to feel confident feeding their babies, even during times when they are apart.



Step 6 HUMAN MILK FOR BREASTFED BABIES

When the goal is to breastfeed, we will help to give only human milk, unless there are medical reasons for using formula. We will help families who use formula to do so safely.



Step 7 BEING TOGETHER SUPPORTS FEEDING

We will support parents to stay together with their babies, unless there is a medical reason for separation.



Step 8 RESPONSIVE, CUE-BASED FEEDING

We support families to feed their babies as often and for as long as they need, based on signs of hunger and fullness.



Step 9 BOTTLES OR SOOTHERS

We can support decision making about bottles and soothers, and caring for breastfed babies without these devices.



Step 10 COMMUNITY SUPPORT

We can provide families with information about community supports that can help with infant feeding once they return home.

*This document uses the term breastfeeding. Some families prefer terms that better align with their gender identities, such as nursing, chestfeeding, or bodyfeeding.