

BREASTFEEDING POLICY

PURPOSE

We, at Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre, provide quality health and preventative care and services based upon conventional, cultural, holistic and traditional Kanien'kehá:ka medicines.

MISSION

We are a team committed and dedicated to strengthening the health and well-being of Onkwehshon:'a by delivering health services that respond to the needs of the community. We will work with each other and the community as partners, as well as external resources, who value caring, respect, accountability, excellence, competency and a holistic approach.

IONTSTARONHTHA

We, at Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre, are committed to support all Kahnawa'kehró:non to make an informed decision on how to feed their baby.

The Breastfeeding Promotion Program promotes awareness of breastfeeding as an important measure for health promotion and disease prevention and encourages all Kahnawa'kehró:non women to make an informed decision to breastfeed their baby.

The Breastfeeding Promotion Program is dedicated to helping mothers increase their knowledge and gain confidence about feeding their baby.

At Kateri Memorial Hospital Centre, we support the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and Health Canada's recommendations to implement the ten steps to successful breastfeeding based on the scientific evidence.

Therefore,

- We have a written Breastfeeding Policy adopted by the Board of Directors in the Hospital.
- We ensure all health care providers have the knowledge and skills to implement the breastfeeding policy.
- We inform pregnant women and their families about the importance and process of breastfeeding.
- We provide them with information about skin to skin and encourage feeding an hour after birth.
- We encourage mothers to breastfeed and maintain lactation, including separation from their infants.
- We will support mothers to exclusively breastfeed for the first six months, unless supplements are medically indicated.
- We will encourage rooming-in for all mother-infant dyads: mothers and infants remain together.
- We will encourage baby-led or cue breastfeeding and encourage sustained breastfeeding beyond six months then introduction of solid foods.
- We will support and encourage mothers to feed and care for their babies without the use of artificial teats or pacifiers.
- We will provide community resources and inform them of the Baby Friendly Support Group Meetings upon their first post natal visit.

