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PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES COMMUNITY AND NURSING SERVICES

Dear Orange County Businesses:

As you likely have heard, there is a nationwide infant formula shortage. Although a number of measures at the federal and state level are underway to improve the supply and availability of formula, it will still be several weeks to months before the problem is resolved. If you have employees or clients with infants at home, this can be an extremely stressful time for them. **Please help us in sharing information about our local resources to support families with infants in Orange County: [Infant Formula Shortage - OC Health Care Agency \(everywomanoc.org\)](http://everywomanoc.org) (English; also attached) and [Escasez de fórmula infantil - Cada Mujer OC \(everywomanoc.org\)](http://everywomanoc.org) (Spanish).**

Encouraging and supporting breastfeeding is another way we can work together to help our families with infants. **In addition, you may be aware that as of January 2020, the state of California implemented new legislation regarding Lactation Accommodation in the Workplace. We've provided a link for your reference: https://leginfo.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB142.** Requirements include that the lactation space:

- Cannot be a bathroom
- Be free from intrusion
- Be safe, clean and free of hazardous materials
- Contain a place to sit
- Contain a surface to place a breast pump
- Has access to electricity
- Be in close proximity to running water

As you know, breastfeeding has many benefits for parents and babies. To name a few, it helps reduce the risk of ear infections, asthma, type 1 diabetes and childhood obesity for the baby; it also helps decrease the risk of osteoporosis and certain cancers such as breast and ovarian cancer for the mom (<https://www.cdc.gov/breastfeeding/pdf/breastfeeding-cdcs-work-508.pdf>).

New parents have major challenges when returning to work after the birth of a baby. According to the CDC, approximately 60% of mothers do not breastfeed for as long they intend to. This is due to a variety of factors including unsupportive work policies. Breaking down the barriers for breastfeeding parents will help to establish and sustain successful breastfeeding. Please assist us in making sure our working and lactating parents have all the support in the workplace they need to continue breastfeeding, now more than ever during this particularly stressful time when the formula supply is uncertain.

Thank you in advance for all you do for the Orange County community.



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