



ALLEGHENY COUNTY

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Contact: Melissa Wade
Public Health Information Officer
412-578-8312 (office)
412-339-7995 (cell)
melissa.wade@alleghenycounty.us

Nominations Being Accepted for Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards

PITTSBURGH – The Allegheny County Health Department (ACHD), in cooperation with the county’s Women, Infants and Children (WIC) Breastfeeding Program, is seeking nominations for its annual Breastfeeding Friendly Places Awards. The awards are presented to workplaces, public places and other sites away from home that make an extra effort to help breastfeeding moms by offering a positive attitude and supportive environment.

“Making places outside the home more breastfeeding-friendly will encourage women to breastfeed longer, and as a result, babies and moms will derive greater health benefits from breastfeeding,” said ACHD Director Dr. Karen Hacker.

Studies show health benefits increase when babies are breastfed for six months or longer. However, surveys have found that only 49% of babies nationwide and 45.7% in Pennsylvania are breastfed for six months or longer, due in part to a lack of support in the workplace and other areas outside the home.

Employers can help breastfeeding moms by offering flextime or extended paid maternity leave, a health plan with breast pump coverage, work site day care and provisions for breastfeeding at work which include an appropriate place, accommodating time for pumping milk and a refrigerator in which to store the milk.

Public places and other areas away from home such as restaurants, malls, libraries, theaters, parks, places of worship as well as sports and entertainment facilities can also be supportive. They can provide an attractive, clean and private area with comfortable seating for mothers to use when nursing. In addition, facilities can have signage to welcome breastfeeding mothers and let them know special accommodations are available.

Breastfeeding friendly workplaces are also good for business, because breastfed babies are less likely to get sick throughout childhood and as a result their parents miss less work due to a child’s illness. To nominate an employer, public place or other site for the awards, please call the Allegheny County Health Department WIC Program at 412-350-4637 or visit the Breastfeeding Friendly Place Awards www.achd.net/bfa. Nominations will be accepted until May 21, 2017. The winners will be announced during World Breastfeeding Week, August 1 - 7, 2017.

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Karen Hacker, MD, MPH, Director
Allegheny County Health Department – Public Information Office
542 Fourth Avenue | Pittsburgh, PA 15219
Phone: 412-687-ACHD (2243) | Fax: 412-578-8325
www.achd.net

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