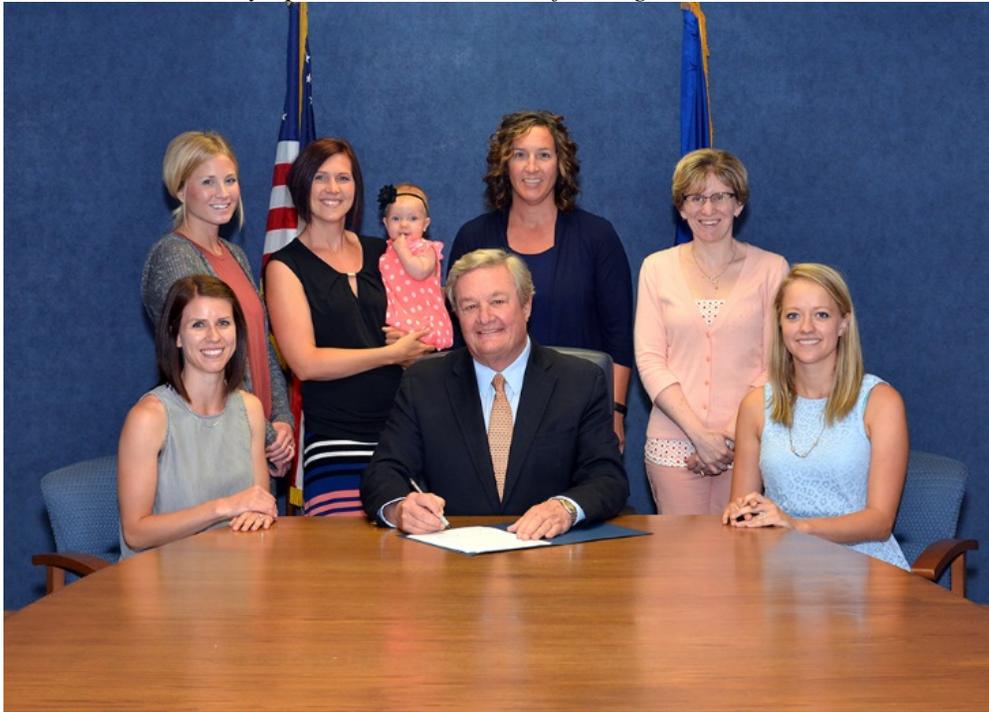


NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
August 1, 2016

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North Dakota “Infant Friendly” Businesses on the Rise
Governor Dalrymple Proclaims Breastfeeding Week in North Dakota



Pictured with N.D. Governor Dalrymple are members of various state and local public health breastfeeding support teams: Mikaela Schlosser, Carley Faiman, Katie Johnke with daughter Halee, Cheri Kiefer, Kim Hinnenkamp, and BriAnna Wanner.

BISMARCK, N.D. – Since 2011, the Department of Health has given the designation of “Infant Friendly” to North Dakota businesses who adopt a policy supporting nursing mothers in the workplace. Since the inception of this program, 73 businesses in North Dakota, representing over 18,000 employees, have been designated Infant Friendly.

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Phone: 701.328.2372 Fax: 701.328.4727 E-mail: health@nd.gov

Visit the health department home page at www.ndhealth.gov.

Benefits to employers include:

- Reduced staff turnover.
- Reduced sick time.
- Lower insurance and health care costs.
- Higher job productivity, employee satisfaction, and morale.
- Added recruitment incentive for women.

The new Infant Friendly designation of several businesses coincides with Gov. Jack Dalrymple’s proclamation of North Dakota Breastfeeding Week, Monday, August 1, through Sunday, August 7, 2016, which mirrors the annual global celebration that draws attention to the health impacts of breastfeeding for both babies and mothers. The theme this year is “Breastfeeding: A Key to Sustainable Development.”

The following North Dakota employers have been newly designated as Infant Friendly in 2016:

- Bismarck – **Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center, BisMan Community Food Co-op**
- Fargo- **West Acres Mall**
- Grand Forks – **Grand Forks Park District**

The following North Dakota employers, designated in 2011 and 2012, have chosen to continue supporting Infant Friendly by renewing their 3-year designation:

The following North Dakota employers have chosen to continue supporting Infant Friendly:

- Bismarck—**Mid Dakota Clinic, Bismarck State College, Bismarck Burleigh Public Health, Center for Tobacco Prevention Policy, Capital Credit Union**
- Carrington—**Foster County Public Health**
- Dickinson--- **Baker Boy**
- Emerado —**Ascension Lutheran Church**
- Fargo—**Gate City Bank**
- Grand Forks—**Performance Chiropractic, Grand Forks County WIC, Grand Forks County, City of Grand Forks**
- Jamestown—**Jamestown Regional Medical Center, Central Valley Health District**
- Mandan—**Custer Health**
- Turtle Mountain—**Northland Community Health Center**
- Valley City— **Valley City School District, Valley City State University**
- Williston—**Upper Missouri District Health Unit**

Businesses interested in becoming “Infant Friendly” can find resources for supporting their employees and a simple application online at www.ndhealth.gov/breastfeeding.

For more information about the Infant Friendly Designation or World Breastfeeding Week, contact Mikaela Schlosser, North Dakota Department of Health, at 701.328.4529.

Please note: To access archived news releases and other information, visit the North Dakota Department of Health Press Room at <https://health.nd.gov/news-media/news-releases>.

Find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/ndhealth or Twitter at twitter.com/nddoh.

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— State of —
North Dakota
Office of the Governor

Jack Dalrymple
Governor

PROCLAMATION
BREASTFEEDING WEEK
AUGUST 1-7, 2016

WHEREAS, breastfeeding has many benefits for babies such as fostering optimal growth, promoting development of a baby's brain and immune system, preventing common illnesses such as diarrhea, ear infections and infections of the respiratory and urinary tracts, and reduces our children's risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS), asthma, infectious diseases, diabetes, and obesity; and

WHEREAS, mothers who breastfeed reduce their risk of breast cancer, ovarian cancer, osteoporosis, and type 2 diabetes; and

WHEREAS, all major medical authorities recommend that mothers breastfeed exclusively for six months and continue breastfeeding for at least the first year of a child's life; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota state law protects a woman's right to breastfeed her child in any location, public or private, where the woman and child are otherwise authorized to be; and

WHEREAS, employers that provide breastfeeding support experience an impressive return on investment, including lower health-care costs, absenteeism and turnover rates, and improved morale, job satisfaction, and productivity; and

WHEREAS, federal law now requires support at work for some mothers who breastfeed, including the provision of a location, other than a bathroom, and reasonable break times to express breast milk; and

WHEREAS, North Dakota employers who support breastfeeding mothers in the workplace can be designated as "Infant Friendly" by the North Dakota Department of Health; and

WHEREAS, the *Surgeon General's Call to Action to Support Breastfeeding* calls on health-care providers, employers, insurers, policymakers, researchers, and the community at large to support mothers in reaching their personal breastfeeding goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, as Governor of the State of North Dakota, I do hereby proclaim August 1-7, 2016, **BREASTFEEDING WEEK** in the state of North Dakota.



Jack Dalrymple
Governor

ATTEST:



Alvin A. Jaeger
Secretary of State