



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Health

PO BOX 2448
RICHMOND, VA 23218

M. Norman Oliver, MD, MA
State Health Commissioner

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July 8, 2021

Dear Community Partner:

On behalf of the Commonwealth of Virginia, please accept this proclamation from Governor Ralph S. Northam declaring August 2021 as Breastfeeding Awareness Month.

This proclamation has been issued annually by the Governor's Office in recognition of National Breastfeeding Awareness Month since 2004. The Virginia Department of Health has requested this proclamation to raise awareness for human milk as the ideal food for infants.

We recognize Breastfeeding Awareness Month in Virginia to elevate knowledge of the unique health, economic, and societal benefits of human milk feeding. Research shows that breastfeeding and human milk provide general health, growth, and developmental advantages while significantly decreasing the risk of infant mortality and many acute and chronic diseases.

I hope that you will proudly display this proclamation in your facility. You and your staff have my gratitude for all that you do every day to support, promote, and protect human milk feeding in the Commonwealth. Thank you for collaborating with the Virginia Department of Health as we strive to assure the health and well-being of all Virginians.

Sincerely,

Jarene Fleming

Jarene Fleming, IBCLC, RLC
State Breastfeeding Coordinator
Office of Family Health Services
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