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# NEWS RELEASE

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## Wright County Public Health Receives Gold Breastfeeding Friendly Award

A gold level award recognizes the highest possible achievement

BUFFALO, MN - Wright County Public Health has received a Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department Award from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) for its contributions to the health of mothers and their babies.

The designation acknowledges a county health department's commitment to acting as a model for the community by supporting healthy families.

Awards are designated at gold, silver and bronze levels, which correspond to the number of steps an organization met in a 10-step process.

After three years of work, the county was recognized at the gold level. In addition to internal policy and practice changes, Public Health helped local schools, workplaces, and child cares attain Breastfeeding Friendly status and supported culturally appropriate breastfeeding support opportunities within the county.

"By being a Breastfeeding Friendly Health Department, we are helping the community," says Casey Henre, a supervisor for Wright County Public Health. "Breastfeeding is something that benefits not just babies and their families, but also impacts communities. Healthier babies mean less sick time taken by parents, lower healthcare costs, and a healthier community."

Breastfeeding is a foundational way to ensure that babies receive optimal nutrition during the first formative years of life. Studies show that infants who are breastfed have better health outcomes as they grow.

MDH's Breastfeeding Friendly recognition program is supported by the state Women, Infants and Children program (WIC) and the Statewide Health Improvement Partnership (SHIP).

To learn more about the application process for the Breastfeeding Friendly recognition program, visit [www.health.state.mn.us/breastfeedingfriendly](http://www.health.state.mn.us/breastfeedingfriendly).

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