

Pike County Health Department Assists the Vandalia City Pool in Promoting Safe Breastfeeding

The city of Vandalia is dedicated to supporting breastfeeding mothers while insuring the safety of children, residents, and guests. A new poster at the their Municipal Pool reads: “The city of Vandalia and The Pike County Health Department remind you that breastfeeding is welcome here and asks that mothers please follow pool rules and feed outside of the pool for the health and safety of their child.”

Pool water, despite high cleaning standards, can still carry Recreational Water Illnesses (RWIs). These various illnesses are caused by germs that can contaminate the water and can be swallowed. RWIs are killed by chlorine but can live in pools for days. Typical pool activities like splashing makes feeding infants in the water a risky event because of the likelihood they will swallow the potentially harmful water. That is why all patrons, including mothers, are asked to feed in a place where they and their baby can stay dry.

It is important to note that mothers must never be asked to move into another building or restroom to feed their babies. According to state law (Section 191.915,RSMo), a mother is allowed to feed her baby wherever they are allowed. At the pool, the mothers are asked to remove themselves from the water while staying in the vicinity of the pool so they can continue to watch other children and hold conversation with those that remain in the water.

The Pike County Health Department is proud to support that health of the community and is dedicated to supporting the success of breastfeeding. Leah Diffey, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor, is available for education and lactation support. Monthly prenatal classes are offered in addition to Breastfeeding Support Group which meets the first Monday of every month at 1:00 in the Health Department. The annual Breastfeeding Awareness Walk to celebrate National Breastfeeding Month will be held August 15th at the Bowling Green City Park. If you have any questions please contact Leah Diffey at 573-324-2111.

This Institution Is an Equal Opportunity Provider.



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For questions or concerns please contact Leah Diffey, Breastfeeding Peer Counselor Pike County Health Department 573-324-2111