



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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MDHHS announces new collaborative prior to Black Breastfeeding Week

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is happy to announce the creation of a new collaborative statewide group, Mi Milk Collective, during Black Breastfeeding Week. In conjunction with the nationally recognized week, [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer has declared Aug. 25-31 as Black Breastfeeding Week in Michigan.](#)

The Mi Milk Collective is led by black women representing hospital systems, community organizations, birth workers and lactation professionals throughout the state of Michigan dedicated to serving black families. In honor of Black Breastfeeding Week, Mi Milk Collective has teamed up with Priority Health to create a scholarship dedicated to financially supporting aspiring black lactation professionals. Mi Milk Collective will also host activities throughout the week.

“Successful breastfeeding can protect babies against allergies, sickness and diseases like diabetes and cancer,” said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, chief medical executive and chief deputy for health at MDHHS. “This week is an important and necessary step towards recognizing and addressing racial disparities that continue to exist. I encourage all Michiganders to participate in the events planned throughout the week to show their support for this important health initiative.”

Michiganders are welcome to participate in the following virtual events:

Tuesday, Aug. 25, noon: Join a virtual reading of the Black Breastfeeding Week Proclamation on Facebook. Please follow YOLO (You Overcoming Lactation Obstacles) Breastfeeding for more information.

Friday, Aug. 28: The Genesee County Breastfeeding Coalition will host a panel discussion centered around Black Breastfeeding. [Tune into the discussion](#) at 2 p.m.

Monday Aug. 31: The Southeast Michigan IBCLCs (International Board Certified Lactation Consultant) of Color, Milk Like Mine, and YOLO Breastfeeding will host Instagram and Facebook Live Virtual Baby Showers. These will include games and education on breastfeeding during the pandemic.

For more information, visit the [MDHHS website](#).

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