

# VOICES FROM THE FIELD

## COVID-19 & INFANT FEEDING

As the nation responds to the global COVID-19 pandemic, the infant feeding landscape is rapidly shifting. The U.S. Breastfeeding Committee is collecting stories from families, clinicians, and allied health workers to create a public record of the lived experiences of families and providers. The stories demonstrate the impact of the virus, as well as the policy responses that are shaping the lives of families and communities.

### FEAR/UNCERTAINTY



"We have heard from so many families worried about every aspect of [COVID-19] from concern they won't see a lactation consultant in the hospital after birth to concern that they can't get to an in-person support meeting for help once baby has been born."

### VALUING PREVENTION



"We are..making sure [moms] understand how their bodies make milk, and providing hands-on support. Lactation is here to help and never before in our lifetime is breastfeeding and protecting mom's milk supply so important."

### MATERNITY CARE PRACTICES



"Our hospital is separating babies from families if mom is COVID-19 positive or a person under investigation, and also will not allow direct breastfeeding or giving exclusive breast milk until mom has a negative test result."

### TELEHEALTH

"We continue to offer all of our services, remotely. 'Curbside' home consults- by FaceTime from our car-- for weight checks, pre and post feeding transfer weights, and feeding assessments. We drop off a sanitized scale for the parents to bring into their home, and we talk them thru the scale use remotely."



### CONFUSION ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS

"As a breastfeeding parent, my main concern [is] my family's safety...The lack of cohesive information is concerning to me."



**This document is a synthesis of 55 stories that were shared with the USBC between March 20 and April 9, 2020. Stories were coded with the following major themes: **fear/uncertainty (32 stories)**, **valuing prevention (21 stories)**, **telehealth (20 stories)**, confusion about recommendations (16 stories), and **maternity care practices (14 stories)**.**

**Share your story:**  
[www.usbreastfeeding.org/covid-stories](http://www.usbreastfeeding.org/covid-stories)