

REVISED STATE POLICY ALLOWS FOR DONATION OF RETURNED FORMULA TO FOOD BANKS, SHELTERS

June 10, 2019 –The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has sought and received approval from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to revise its policy on donation of unused, returned formula.

Effective May 31, the revised policy now allows Women, Infants and Children (WIC) agencies to donate unused, returned formula to a local non-profit organization. However, under USDA restrictions, this revised policy continues to dis-allow the reissuance of returned formula to WIC clients. In the instance that a WIC client’s baby is not tolerating the formula originally given, the unused formula must be returned to the local WIC office for formula benefit reissuance.

“We are glad to see this revision from the USDA, as formula donated to local non-profits can be an important source of nutrition for families using our local food banks,” said Anne Bianchi, MS, RD Director of WIC.

Before local agencies may donate, they must examine the unused, returned formula for can condition and expiration date, and dispose of any opened, dented, or expired containers. Agencies must also keep an electronic log of unused, returned formula and what action was taken with the formula.

District Health Department #10 is the local provider for the WIC program. WIC is a federally-funded program that serves low to moderate income women, infants and children up to age 5, by providing nutritious food, nutrition education, breastfeeding promotion and support and referrals to health and other services.

If you or someone you know has questions about WIC, please visit www.dhd10.org/parents-families/wic-2/. If you are outside of the DHD#10 service region and need contact information for a WIC agency, please visit www.michigan.gov/wic.

About DHD #10

District Health Department #10 (DHD #10) is Michigan's largest geographical health department, mandated to promote and protect the public from unsafe and hazardous conditions and provide methods of promoting good health and disease prevention. Some of the vital programs provided by DHD #10 include Immunizations, Infectious Disease Control, STI Testing and Counseling, WIC, Maternal Infant Health Program, Healthy Families Northern Michigan, Children's Special Health Services, Hearing and Vision Screening, Family Planning, Cancer Screening, Worksite Wellness, Smoking Cessation, Substance Use Prevention, Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental Health Services. DHD #10 serves Crawford, Kalkaska, Lake, Manistee, Mason, Mecosta, Missaukee, Newaygo, Oceana, and Wexford counties. For more information, visit www.dhd10.org.

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