Safely Distributing Infant Feeding Supplies

When new donations come in AND at least monthly (more often if high turnover)

Discard/Throw Away:

- ❒ **Formula and baby food with damaged, dented, bloated, or opened containers** or those with broken interior or exterior seals.
- ❒ **Used infant feeding items (bottles, nipples, all pump parts).** When possible, distribute only new feeding items.
- ❒ **Formula and baby food that is expired or will expire in the current month**. Consider discarding those that will expire in the following month, especially if your site serves few babies and young children.
- ❒ **Powdered or liquid infant formula that has been exposed to extreme heat or freezing** as this may alter nutrient availability/stability and container integrity.
- ❒ **Concentrated formula** (liquid formula that says "ADD WATER" – often in small cans) as these are often not prepared safely and lack clear instructions.

Discard formula in a secured waste receptacle to ensure that unsafe product will not be accessed by others and fed to babies.

Mark & Organize Feeding Supplies for Best Safety

Write expiration dates on the top and front of formula containers with a permanent marker (i.e. EXP Jun/27)

Visual Organization of Infant Feeding Area

- ❒ **Hide formula from view when practical**. A drape over a shelf with a sign works.
- ❒ **In front** – "Ready-to-feed" formula (liquid already prepared formula, aka RTF)
- ❒ **Next to RTF** – NEW bottle nipples and bottles.
- ❒ **In front, easy to see** – NEW electric or manual breast pumps
- ❒ Place safe infant feeding kits (if available) near RTF formula

Move These Items to Other Areas

To decrease risk of families selecting an inappropriate item, store/display separately.

- ❒ **For Older Children** – toddler formula, formula for age 1+, dry milk powder
- ❒ **Medical Foods/Products** – tube feeding products, thickeners, Pediasure, Ensure

Consider holding excess formula and specialty formulas (i.e. Nutramigen) in the back with a sign (in multiple languages, if appropriate) near the formula station indicating they are available if needed.

Inform Caregivers

Post the "Safe Infant Feeding Tips for Families" poster near the infant feeding items.

Breastfeeding & Human Milk

- ❒ If human milk is labeled with donor's contact information, please contact the infant feeding specialist to support informed milk sharing
- ❒ If human milk is unlabeled and/or thawed, discard.
- ❒ For those seeking human breast milk, donor milk may be available. Contact the Oklahoma Mothers' Milk Bank at 405/297-5683 or okmilkbank.org.
- ❒ You can **support breastfeeding** by having a private area available for lactation and signs pointing to this space.

For More information: Contact COBA at info@okbreastfeeding.org or our website okbreastfeeding.org.

This handout adapted from Support & Advocacy for Feeding Emergencies, safeinfantfeeding.org info@safeinfantfeeding.org

2026