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**Peoria City/County
Health Department**

Media Release

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From: Peoria City/County Health Department
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For Immediate Release

Health Department Adds a Milk Depot for Mother's Milk

The Peoria City/County Health Department is now an official Milk Depot for Mother's Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes. Join us for a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on Thursday, May 10, 2018 at 3:30 pm in the WIC (Women, Infants, and Children) program area at Peoria City/County Health Department, 2116 N. Sheridan Road, Peoria.

Human breast milk is important for nutrition of babies, especially premature babies, with mother's milk being the gold standard. Banked donor milk is prescribed when baby's mother cannot provide enough of her own breast milk or there is serious illness. Preterm babies fed anything other than human milk are at much greater risk for serious health problems, like necrotizing enterocolitis which is a digestive tract inflammation that affects about 20% of very low birth weight infants.

The Mother's Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes is a human milk bank service that safely collects, screens, processes, pasteurizes, and dispenses human breast milk. The milk bank helps babies, particularly those with medical conditions in hospitals, and helps mothers who cannot supply enough of their own breast milk.

The Peoria City/County Health Department's new Milk Depot is a convenient drop off station, so busy moms with extra breast milk are spared the task of packaging and shipping their donor milk to the milk bank. The Department and WIC program partner with community groups to increase breastfeeding and support nutrition that contributes to the health of families.

For information on Mother's Milk Bank of the Western Great Lakes, visit www.milkbankwgl.org. For more information on child and family health programs and other important public health issues, visit the Peoria City/County Health Department website at www.pcchd.org.

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The Peoria City/County Health Department continues efforts to improve community health in Peoria County with the overarching goal ***"to increase the number of people who are healthy at every stage of life."***