

## Rapid Infant Feeding Triage

This tool has been developed for use by non-experts to identify infant feeding needs rapidly and accurately in emergency settings. It does not replace a full assessment or identify all potential risks.

### How old is your baby/child?

This question gives you critical information about the child's nutritional needs and risks. Generally, the younger the child, the more specific and urgent their nutritional needs AND the more susceptible they are to contamination or inappropriate to age food.

Example: A 1-month old infant needs to be fed a minimum of 8 times per day and should receive only human milk or sterile commercial infant formula when human milk is not available. Breast infections from deferred feedings and other lactation difficulties are also more common at this stage than with older babies.

### How was your baby being fed before the emergency?

This question tells you what the parent is familiar with and what their intention was prior to the emergency. A child can be consuming just one category (ie: exclusively breastfeeding) or, more typically, multiple categories (breastfeeding + infant formula; breastfeeding + solids).

### How is your baby being fed now?

A change in practice since the emergency began is a warning flag, indicating that the emergency has created pressures on their capacity and that they are now doing unfamiliar/new things. This is important because the shift is typically towards less safe practices (exclusive breastfeeding to mixed feeding) or inappropriate products (cow's milk to toddler "shakes").

Breastfeeding only

"Keep breastfeeding"

Encourage & reassure that this is the safest way to feed their baby & prioritize services to facilitate breastfeeding .

Mixed feeding

"Breastfeed as much as possible"

Encourage & reassure that even a little breastfeeding is worthwhile and a comfort to their baby.

Infant formula

"Use extra caution"

What is safe at home is not safe in an emergency setting & explain what facility has in place for safer preparation.

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Adult Name & Contact + Child Initials	How old is your baby?	How was your baby being fed before you left?	How is your baby being fed now?
	_____ months	breastfeeding infant formula cow's milk solid food other:_____	breastfeeding infant formula cow's milk solid food other:_____
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## Rapid Infant Feeding Triage - Quick Reference

	0-6m	6-12m	12m+
Breastfeeding			
Infant formula			
Breastfeeding + infant formula			
Breastfeeding + cow's milk			
Infant formula + cow's milk			
Cow's milk			
Other:			
Solid food			



Lowest risk category for age, reassure & refer to psychosocial & peer supports



Highest risk & outside of recommendations, clarify then immediate referral to health professional & close follow-up



Higher risk category for age, require immediate practical supports & referral to individual counselling



Common practice that is not recommended, risks may increase in emergency setting, refer to individual counselling



High risk category for age, require immediate practical supports & urgent referral to individual counselling

### Practical Needs

Prep Space Location:

Food Services Contact:

Diaper, supplies:

### Psychosocial Help

Canadian Mental Health Association  
<https://cmha.ca/find-help/>  
 Crisis Line: 1-833-456-4566  
 Wellness Supports  
<https://www.wellnesstogether.ca/en-ca/>

### Peer Support

Parent-Baby Space Location:

La Leche League Canada  
<https://www.lllc.ca/get-help/lllc-phone-lines>

### Health Services

Public Health  
 Liaison Contact:

# Where to find



Diapers, wipes, sanitary pads

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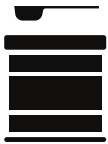
Baby Change Stations/Family Washrooms

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Private Breastfeeding Space

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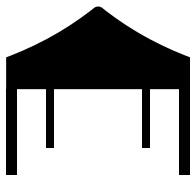


Infant Formula Supplies

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Infant Feeding Preparation Room

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Parent-Baby Space

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# HELP!

Infant Feeding Specialist/  
Public Health

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National Infant Feeding  
Resource List

