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Mothers' Milk Bank San Jose COVID-19

While the incidence of COVID-19 has impacted our daily life, sick and premature babies continue to need donor human milk. We rely on healthy, eligible donors to donate their excess milk so we can sustain our ability to provide a vital service to the sick babies in our communities. On March 4, 2020 Mothers' Milk Bank voluntarily implemented the following screening to assure that the milk from prospective donors is safe.

A temporary 28-day deferral is applied if:

- A mother who knowingly has had contact with a person who is suspected of or positive for COVID-19
- A mother who is suspected of or diagnosed with COVID-19
- A mother who is suspected of having or diagnosed with COVID-19 during any part of her donation period.

This additional screening provides the first line of defense for ensuring a safe milk supply. The second line of defense is our rigorous manufacturing process that ensures pathogens are inactivated. All donated milk is pasteurized using the Holder Pasteurization method. The milk is heated to 62.5°C for 30 minutes, then rapidly cooled to 4 °C, and then frozen to -18 °C. Current knowledge of the corona virus family suggests that these viruses are heat intolerant. The Holder Pasteurization method is the final step in ensuring donated milk is safe for sick and at risk babies.

We understand that this is a time of great uncertainty and we want to assure you that as a health care organization, we are taking every precaution to prevent the spread of coronavirus. As an organization that provides an essential service that supports health care we have a commitment to those we serve and in partnership with our donors ensure we are able to continue providing this necessary service. Donors are a vital link in the chain of ensuring sick and at risk babies have access to essential lifesaving donor human milk. A decrease in available donor human milk would put the patients we serve at risk, so we encourage you to donate the precious resource of human milk.

Connect with Mother's Milk Bank at (877) 375-6645 or connect with us at <https://mothersmilk.org/donate-milk/> to start your donation process or answer any questions.