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Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) Supports Donor Milk Needs Due to Hurricane Irma

10 September, 2017 - Human Milk Banking Association of North America, and its 26 member milk banks, stand ready to support donor milk needs in Florida and other areas impacted by Hurricane Irma. We will continue to assure that premature and fragile babies in need receive life-saving donor milk until their own mothers are able to provide it for them.

“We have been receiving calls from generous mothers nation-wide wanting to donate their milk to help those in need in Florida and Texas. If you would like to donate milk, please contact the milk bank [closest to you](#) to arrange for screening and donation. HMBANA milk banks collaborate together to assure effective distribution of donor milk in disasters such as the recent hurricanes as well as day to day,” said Naomi Bar-Yam, president of [HMBANA](#).

Babies in hospitals in areas affected by Hurricane Irma may be transferred to hospitals out of the Irma's path. “We at [Mothers' Milk Bank of Florida](#) are working with hospitals throughout the state to assure that donor milk needs are met wherever the babies are. In order to avoid confusion and duplication of effort, we are monitoring the situation and will call upon other milk banks should there be need for additional support,” said Kandis Natoli, director of the Florida Mothers' Milk Bank.

Nursing mothers in Florida are encouraged to continue breastfeeding. More information on breastfeeding in emergencies is available from the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#) and [La Leche League International](#).

“Mothers who have pumped and frozen milk are rightly quite concerned about power outages. To preserve frozen items in a power outage, including frozen pumped milk, the [USDA](#) recommends: Group foods together in both the refrigerator and freezer to help them stay cold longer; keep the freezer full by filling empty spaces with frozen plastic jugs of water, bags or blocks of ice, gel packs, or with refrigerated items that you do not need immediately; and, keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible to keep cold in and warm air out,” advised Bar-Yam.

Your closest HMBANA milk bank can be found at <https://www.hmbana.org/locations>.

HMBANA advances the field of non-profit milk banking through member accreditation, development of evidence-based best practices, and advocacy to ensure an ethically sourced and equitably distributed supply of donor human milk.

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