

# Providing Breast Milk for Your Baby



**SickKids®**

The terms 'mother' and 'breastfeeding' are used throughout our documents; we recognize and respect that individuals and families may use other preferred terminology.

# At SickKids, We Value Breast Milk

The health benefits of breastfeeding and breast milk are well known and are especially important while your baby is in hospital.

## **Some of the benefits of breast milk for your baby:**

- Acts as a medicine for babies who are sick or premature
- Provides antibodies to protect against certain infections, including COVID-19
- Provides growth factors for brain, eye and gut development

## **Any amount of breast milk is beneficial for your baby's health, every drop counts!**

Our Breastfeeding Program is a team of registered nurses who are also lactation consultants and are specially trained to provide breastfeeding and lactation support to families of patients who are admitted to SickKids.

Speak to a member of your health-care team for a referral to a lactation consultant for any breastfeeding or lactation concerns.





# Starting Early is Key

Frequent pumping programs your breasts to produce milk for your baby – this will ensure you have enough milk as your baby grows.

## Check list

- Start pumping within 6 hours of delivery or any time your baby is unable to feed at the breast
- Rent or purchase a double electric pump for home use
- Pump every 2-3 hours – 8-12 times daily
- Wake up at least once at night to pump (you can have one 4 hour gap between pumps)
- Don't worry if you don't get anything, or only drops when you pump in the first few days after birth – keep going!
- Ensure your volumes are increasing daily over the first week after birth (see page 20)
- Speak to your baby's nurse or a lactation consultant for more information

## Where can I pump?

SickKids will provide you with one set of pump kits to use with our pumps while you are here. Please see cleaning instructions on page 12-13.

If your baby is in **NICU/CCCU/PICU**:

- There are pump rooms on the unit (3 rooms in the NICU, 1 room in the CCCU/PICU)
- There are rolling pumps for you to use at your baby's bedside
- There is a pump room on the 2nd floor – Room 2319 (beside the family laundry room)

If your baby is on a **ward**:

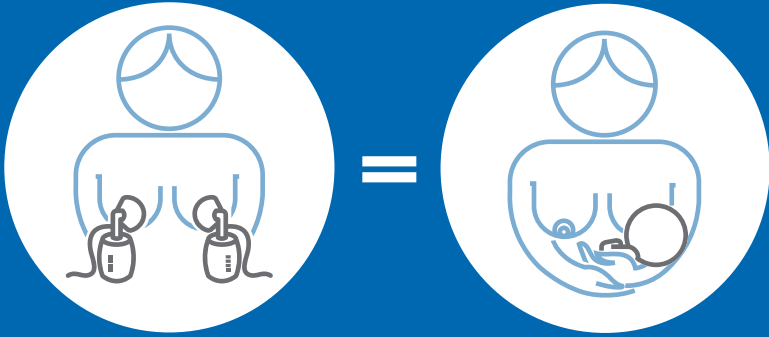
- There are rolling pumps to use at your baby's bedside

Alternate pump rooms for **any family**:

- Main Floor – Room M464 (beside the elevators in front of Shoppers)
- 7th floor – Room 7732 (down the hallway between 7A and 7D)

These two rooms do not have storage bottles – bring some from your unit.

# Pumping More Often is the Key to More Milk!



When your baby cannot breastfeed, you need to tell your body what to do by pumping instead.

Your baby would be feeding  
at least 8 times in 24 hours.

**Pump at least  
8 times in 24 hours**

# How to Hand Express Breast Milk

Hand expression and pumping with a double electric pump helps establish and maintain your breast milk supply. Try hand expressing after pumping. Hand expressing works well to express colostrum in the first few days.



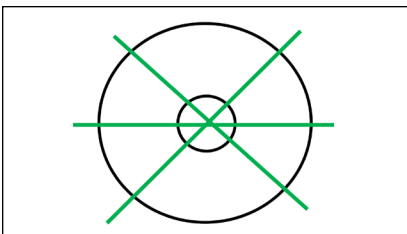
Hold your breast between your finger and thumb about 3-4 cm/1.5" from the nipple (edge of the areola). Your finger and thumb should be opposite each other and in line with the nipple. A small mirror helps show you where to place your finger and thumb.



Keeping your finger and thumb placed, press back toward your chest wall.



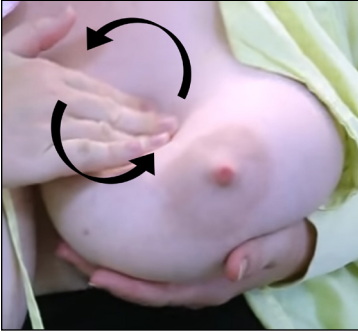
Keeping finger and thumb placed, press together while back into your chest, compressing the breast tissue between them.



Continue until milk stops flowing, then rotate finger and thumb to a new position, always keeping finger and thumb in line with the nipple. You can go from one breast to the other.

# Breast Massage

Three ways for you to help increase flow of breast milk. Try before pumping or between pumping and hand expressing.



Start at the outer edge of the breast and move toward the nipple. Massage by making small circles, pressing gently into the breast tissue. At the outer edge of the breast move over 1-2 inches (3-5 cm.). Starting at the outer edge of the breast, massage in circles down toward the nipple.



Start at the edge of the breast and move toward the nipple. Massage by pressing gently with your fingers into the breast tissue. At the outer edge of the breast move over 1-2 inches (3-5 cm.). Breast massage with your fingers down.



Cup the breast on one side. With either the heel of your hand or your fingers push gently through the breast to your cupped hand on the other side.

You can try massaging during pumping:

- You can buy or make a nursing bra to hold the kits in place.
- The breast pump kit can be held between your middle fingers allowing your thumb and baby finger to massage the breast.

# How to Put Your Breast Pump Kit Together

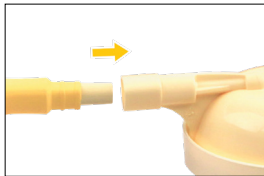


## Parts

1. Breast flange/shield
2. Connector
3. Yellow valve
4. White membrane
5. Breast milk collection bottle
6. Membrane cap
7. Membrane
8. Tubing



Insert the tubing into the opening in the back of the connector.



Insert the tubing adapter into the opening of the membrane cap.



Open the lid by pressing the oval button on the top and lift the handle.




Push the membrane caps firmly down onto the domes in the top of the pump to form a seal.



Close the lid.

\*It is important to wash your hands thoroughly before assembling your breast pump kit.\*

# How to Use the Medela Symphony Pump


Press  to start the breast pump and choose your program.

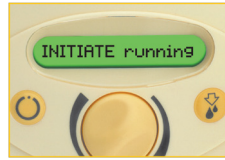
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Use **INITIATE** program **immediately after birth**:

- Within the first 5 days, **OR**;
- Until you've pumped at least 20 mL in each of your last 3 sessions, whichever comes first.



To use the **INITIATE** program, press the  button within 10 seconds of turning on the pump.



The **INITIATE** program lasts 15 minutes.

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Use **MAINTAIN** program **after milk comes in**:

- Once you've pumped at least 20 mL in each of your last 3 sessions, **OR**;
- Beginning day 6, whichever comes first.



To use the **MAINTAIN** program, do not press any buttons after turning the pump on.

Pump with the **MAINTAIN** program for 15-20 minutes.



Adjust knob to find comfortable suction level.



- Do not express with suction that is too high and uncomfortable. Pain, along with potential breast and nipple trauma, may decrease milk output.
- Using the right size of breast flange for your nipple is not only important for comfort but also efficiency. Only the nipple should be pulled into the tunnel, not the areola.

# Educational Videos

- How to use the Medela Symphony breast pump to initiate and maintain your milk supply
- Hand expression of breast milk
- Breast milk mouth care: Boost your baby's immune system (Oral immune therapy – OIT)
- Kangaroo Care (KC) and the hospitalized infant
- Kangaroo Care (KC) and the hospitalized infant – Ventilated babies
- Common breast complications during lactation – engorgement, plugged ducts, mastitis
- Breastfeeding position and latch
- Breastfeeding intake assessment, Part 1 – How to know if a baby is drinking enough milk
- Breastfeeding intake assessment, Part 2 – How to do a test weight with Medela BabyWeigh



Visit [www.sickkids.ca/breastfeeding-program](http://www.sickkids.ca/breastfeeding-program) or scan the QR code to see these videos and all of our breastfeeding/pumping resources.



# Where to Clean Your Kits in Hospital

If your baby is in an ICU (NICU, CCCU, PICU), you will need to use the Breast Pump Kit Cleaning Stations to clean your kits between each pump session at the hospital.

## These are located on:

- NICU across from the pump rooms (for NICU families only)
- 2nd Floor, outside of the Critical Care Unit on the side with the windows
- 5th Floor, outside of unit 5A



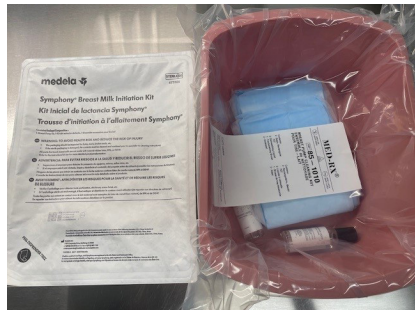
## Why do I have two basins?

You have been given two basins so that you can use one as your “dirty” bin to put used pump kits in and one as your “clean” bin for after you have cleaned them.

**Please write your baby’s first initial and last name on both bins in permanent marker (available at the front desk).**

## Why do I have soap and a bottle brush?

You have been given soap and a bottle brush so that if your baby is transferred to a single room on a ward, you can wash your kits in one of the basins in your private bathroom sink. Please see the instructions on the following two pages.



**Please do NOT use this soap in the cleaning station dishwashers!**

# Breast Pump Kit Washing Instructions in Hospital

Dishwashers provide a safe process for cleaning breast pump kits. At least once a day, wash and sanitize breast pump kits in the dishwasher in cleaning stations on 5th floor (room 5703) or 2nd floor (room 2763).

## For patients in multi-bed rooms



Caregivers/parents should use the dishwasher to clean and sanitize soiled breast pump kits **after every pump use**. There is no clean area for washing breast pump kits in these rooms.

## For patients in single bed rooms

After each breast pump kit use, take apart the kit and place parts in one of the plastic basins provided. Label basin with patient's first initial and last name with permanent marker.



Wash the parts using the patient washroom sink in your baby's room, **NOT** the hand hygiene sink outside the washroom.



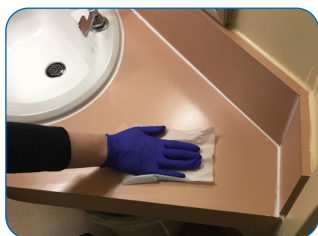
Wash all parts (except the membrane cap and tubing) **in the basin**, NOT directly in the sink. Use warm water and the dish soap provided.



Rinse all parts well.

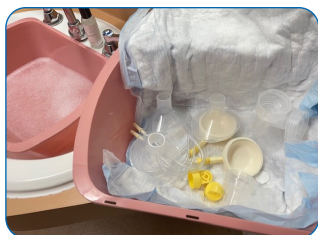


Wipe the membrane cap and tubing with hospital disinfectant and let dry.



Prepare a table top surface. Using clean gloves and hospital disinfectant, wipe surface clean and allow to air dry.

Prepare the second basin by wiping inside with disinfectant and allowing to air dry on the clean table top.



In an area protected from dirt and dust, place washed and rinsed breast pump kit parts on a clean paper towel or absorbent pad in your clean basin. Allow to air dry thoroughly or pat dry with paper towels. Do not use cloth towels, as they have a greater chance of spreading germs than paper towels.

At least once a day, sanitize the breast pump kit supplies in the dishwasher (except membrane cap and tubing).

## **Cleaning kits at home**

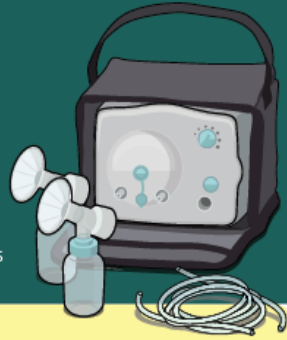
Keeping the breast pump kits clean is critical because germs can grow quickly in breast milk or breast milk residue that remains on the pump parts.

# How to Clean Your Pump Kits at Home

Accessible version: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/healthychildcare/infantfeeding/breastpump.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/healthychildcare/infantfeeding/breastpump.html)

## How to Keep Your Breast Pump Kit Clean

Providing breast milk is one of the best things you can do for your baby's health and development. Pumping your milk is one way to provide breast milk to your baby. Keeping the parts of your pump clean is critical, because germs can grow quickly in breast milk or breast milk residue that remains on pump parts. Following these steps can help prevent contamination and protect your baby from infection. If your baby was born prematurely or has other health concerns, your baby's health care providers may have more recommendations for pumping breast milk safely.



### BEFORE EVERY USE

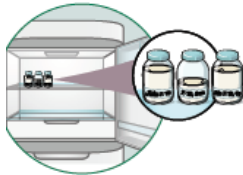


**Wash hands** with soap and water.

**Inspect and assemble** clean pump kit. If your tubing is moldy, discard and replace immediately.

**Clean** pump dials, power switch, and countertop with disinfectant wipes, especially if using a shared pump.

### AFTER EVERY USE



**Store milk safely.** Cap milk collection bottle or seal milk collection bag, label with date and time, and immediately place in a refrigerator, freezer, or cooler bag with ice packs.

**Clean pumping area,** especially if using a shared pump. Clean the dials, power switch, and countertop with disinfectant wipes.

**Take apart** breast pump tubing and separate all parts that come in contact with breast/breast milk.

**Rinse** breast pump parts that come into contact with breast/breast milk by holding under running water to remove remaining milk. Do not place parts in sink to rinse.

**Clean pump parts** that come into contact with breast/breast milk as soon as possible after pumping. You can clean your pump parts **in a dishwasher** or **by hand** in a wash basin used only for cleaning the pump kit and infant feeding items.

Follow the cleaning steps given on the next page.



Centers for Disease  
Control and Prevention  
National Center for Emerging and  
Zoonotic Infectious Diseases

## Clean Pump Kit

### CLEAN BY HAND



**Place pump parts in a clean wash basin** used only for infant feeding items. **Do not place pump parts directly in the sink!**

**Add soap and hot water** to basin.

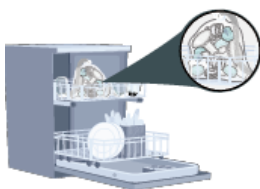
**Scrub** items using a clean brush used only for infant feeding items.

**Rinse** by holding items under running water, or by submerging in fresh water in a separate basin.

**Air-dry thoroughly.** Place pump parts, wash basin, and bottle brush on a clean, unused dish towel or paper towel in an area protected from dirt and dust. Do not use a dish towel to rub or pat items dry!

**Clean wash basin and bottle brush.** Rinse them well and allow them to air-dry after each use. Wash them by hand or in a dishwasher at least every few days.

### OR CLEAN IN DISHWASHER



**Clean pump parts in a dishwasher**, if they are dishwasher-safe. Be sure to place small items into a closed-top basket or mesh laundry bag. Add soap and, if possible, **run the dishwasher using hot water and a heated drying cycle (or sanitizing setting).**

**Remove from dishwasher** with clean hands. If items are not completely dry, place items on a clean, unused dish towel or paper towel to air-dry thoroughly before storing. Do not use a dish towel to rub or pat items dry!

## After Cleaning

### FOR EXTRA PROTECTION, SANITIZE



**For extra germ removal, sanitize** pump parts, wash basin, and bottle brush **at least once daily** after they have been cleaned. Items can be sanitized using steam, boiling water, or a dishwasher with a sanitize setting. Sanitizing is especially important if your baby is less than 3 months old, was born prematurely, or has a weakened immune system due to illness or medical treatment.

For detailed instructions on sanitizing your pump parts, visit [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/healthychildcare/infantfeeding.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/healthychildcare/infantfeeding.html)

### STORE SAFELY



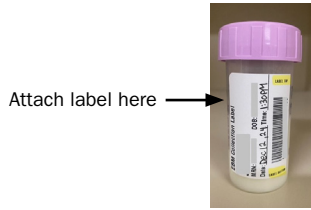
**Store dry items safely until needed.** Ensure the clean pump parts, bottle brushes, and wash basins have air-dried thoroughly before storing. Items must be completely dry to help prevent germs and mold from growing. Store dry items in a clean, protected area.

Learn more about safe and healthy diapering and infant feeding habits at [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/healthychildcare](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/healthychildcare).

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# Caring for Your Breast Milk for Your Hospitalized Baby

- Wash your hands with soap and water or hand sanitizer before pumping.
- Always use approved SickKids containers to store breast milk.
- Leave at least ½ inch space at the top. Write the date and time of pumping on the label with a pen. Apply the SickKids label to the container vertically (as shown). Refrigerate or freeze right away or within four hours of pumping.



- Do not combine the milk from more than one pump session in the same container. Take enough containers for each pumping session home with you. Ask your nurse how much milk to store in the container.
- Transport **refrigerated milk** in an insulated cooler with frozen gel packs or ice cubes stored in ziplock bags or a container with a lid.
- Transport **frozen milk** in an insulated cooler with frozen gel packs. Don't add ice cubes as they will draw the freezing out of the breast milk.



# Breast Milk Storage Times for Hospitalized Babies

**Storage times are more conservative for hospitalized babies.**

We encourage you to bring all of your breast milk to SickKids, unless otherwise indicated.

## Storing expressed breast milk (EBM)

**4**  
hours

**Refrigerate EBM right away** or within 4 hours of pumping.

**48**  
hours

**Refrigerated EBM** can be kept for 48 hours.

**48**  
hours

**Refrigerated EBM** must be frozen within 48 hours of pumping.

## Freezing expressed breast milk (EBM)

**3**  
months

**Freeze** EBM in the freezer of a **2 door fridge** for up to 3 months at  $-18^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $0^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).



**6**  
months

**Freeze** EBM in a deep or **chest freezer** for up to 6-12 months at  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  ( $-4^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).



**12**  
months

**Throw away** frozen EBM **after 12 months** if it was kept in a deep freezer.

# You're an Important Team Member in Your Baby's Care

Here are some of the things you can do:

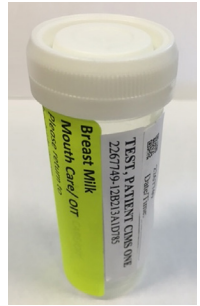
## Oral Immune Therapy (OIT)

Using some of your breast milk to provide mouth care for your baby, the inside of your baby's mouth is coated with your breast milk using a swab or syringe.



**Why?** Helps boost baby's immune system, protects against infections, increases attachment, bonding, and breastfeeding rates.

**Who?** Babies who cannot receive any feeds (NPO) and/or are not feeding by mouth (tube fed).



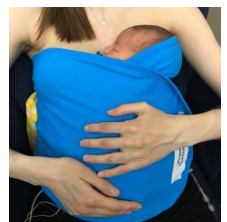
## Kangaroo Care (KC)

Holding your baby skin-to-skin or touching your baby skin-to-skin for modified KC when your baby cannot be held.

**Why?** Helps to prepare you and your baby for breastfeeding, aids in sleep and brain development, decreases stress, increases bonding, and helps stimulate milk production.

**Who?** All SickKids babies.

To help facilitate kangaroo care, Joey bands are available in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). These wraps are adjustable and can be taken off in seconds. If you are on another unit, they are available for purchase at The Specialty Food Shop.



# Breast Pumps to Purchase for Home Use

**Ameda and Medela** make hospital recommended double electric breast pumps to establish and maintain a breast milk supply. You can find these at:

- The Specialty Food Shop at SickKids (Main floor)
- Mount Sinai Hospital baby shop (17th floor)
- Most baby stores
- Amazon.ca

## Breast Pump Rental

To find a location near you that rents **Ameda** breast pumps, go to:  
[www.motherschoiceproducts.com/find-rental-location](http://www.motherschoiceproducts.com/find-rental-location)

To find a location near you that rents **Medela** breast pumps, go to:  
[www.medela.ca/breastfeeding/locationfinder](http://www.medela.ca/breastfeeding/locationfinder).

# Track Your Milk Volumes

Pump at least 8 times in 24 hours, every 2-3 hours with a maximum of one 4 hour gap at night. Breast massaging before/during pumping and hand expressing after pumping helps increase your milk supply.

## Goal/Expected Milk Volumes

Drops to a few mL per pump session in the first few days

350 mL by day 7 of life for premature infants

500 mL by day 7 of life for term infants

750 mL by day 14 of life for all infants

*If you do not reach these volumes, ask to speak to a lactation consultant*

On the following pages, record the volume (amount) pumped under the hour column, **and add up your 24 hour totals.**

There are also a number of apps you can use to track your milk volumes. Search “Pump log” in your app store.

\*Don't worry about what you get at each individual pump session, as it is normal for it to vary during the day or depending on the amount of time since your last pump session. Only focus on how much you are making in 24 hours and if that total is meeting your goals.\*

**Remember: The earlier you start to pump, the better.**

## Pumping at the Bedside

Pumping at the bedside lets you spend more time with your baby. Being near your baby when you pump can also help boost your supply.

If you would like more privacy, pumping ponchos are available in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU). If you are on another unit, you can use your own nursing cover.




\*Privacy screens and signs are available as required.\*

Day	1 am	2 am	3 am	4 am	5 am	6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	12 am	24 Hour Totals	
E.g. Day 7				75 mL				60 mL									75 mL				60 mL				60 mL	Milk: 520 mL Pumps: 8
																										Milk: ____ mL Pumps: ____
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Day	1 am	2 am	3 am	4 am	5 am	6 am	7 am	8 am	9 am	10 am	11 am	12 pm	1 pm	2 pm	3 pm	4 pm	5 pm	6 pm	7 pm	8 pm	9 pm	10 pm	11 pm	12 am	24 Hour Totals
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To contact the  
Breastfeeding program at SickKids:  
**[lactation.consultants@sickkids.ca](mailto:lactation.consultants@sickkids.ca)**

**SickKids<sup>®</sup>**