

Frequently asked questions

What is pasteurized human donor milk?

Breast milk that has been donated to a milk bank and pasteurized in a heat treatment process that eliminates harmful bacteria/viruses.

The pasteurization process is similar to that used to ensure the safety of cow's milk. Pasteurized donor milk goes through a rigorous testing process to ensure its safety.

Does pasteurization change breast milk?

Most of the unique nutrients and components, such as immune factors, found only in human breast milk are retained after pasteurization. There are slightly lower levels of some nutrients, however, all babies in the NICU have their growth monitored.

How does the Milk Bank maintain high standards of quality?

The Milk Bank follows guidelines set by the Human Milk Banking Association of North America (HMBANA) and public health regulations governing the handling, processing and storage of food.

Who will be offered donor milk?

Fragile, hospitalized babies, including low birth weight babies when there is not enough of their own mother's milk. If donor milk supplies are limited, the highest risk babies will receive donor milk.

Want to know more?

For more information and to find out if you are eligible to donate, please visit milkbankontario.ca

Funded in part by the Government of Ontario

The Rogers Hixon Ontario Human Milk Bank is a non-profit organization and member of the Human Milk Banking Association of North America.

Located at:
Mount Sinai Hospital
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Guidance for Donor Milk Usage

Pasteurized breast milk
for preterm babies of
Jewish faith



**Sinai
Health**

Rogers Hixon Ontario
Human Milk Bank

The Rogers Hixon Ontario Human Milk Bank

Due to medical complications, most preterm babies in hospitals don't have access to a full supply of their mother's own milk, putting them at risk of life-threatening complications.

Donated human milk can help save a hospitalized baby's life. Studies have shown that it reduces the rate of medical complications and gives sick babies a chance at survival.

The Rogers Hixon Ontario Human Milk Bank, located at Mount Sinai Hospital, collects, pasteurizes and distributes donated breast milk to hospitals across Ontario and is given by prescription to the most vulnerable babies.

Ask your baby's doctor to arrange a consultation about donor milk with your spiritual leader.



Donor milk for your hospitalized baby

Jewish law recognizes the importance of human milk. For babies who are born preterm or who are medically fragile, human milk provides not only nutrition, but also protection from some of the most severe health complications.

While mother's own milk is ideal for the baby, many babies will require a supplement to this, particularly in the first days after birth.

Donor milk may be prescribed for your baby according to specific eligibility criteria.

"All human milk is considered pareve or non-dairy. Under the Jewish law of Pikuach Nefesh or Saving a Life, donor milk is considered exempt from other dietary laws."

Rabbi Ronald Weiss

Who donates breast milk?

Healthy mothers who want to help babies in need and who are able to pump excess milk are encouraged to donate their extra breast milk.

Bereaved moms may also find milk donation very comforting as they grieve the loss of their baby.

Women are only eligible to donate after a rigorous screening which includes approval of their health and lifestyle and the completion of a blood test. This process is similar to that used for donating blood.

Once breast milk is collected, the milk is mixed with the breast milk of three other mothers in order to get the best balance of nutrients for the preterm baby.

All breast milk donations are anonymous, like blood. There is no possibility for directed donation.

