

Response to: *Safe Handling of Containers of Expressed Human Milk in all Settings During the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Pandemic* (Marinelli and Lawrence, 2020)

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Dear Dr. Joan E. Dodgson,

We write this letter encouraging retraction of the article; *Safe Handling of Containers of Expressed Human Milk in all Settings During the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Pandemic*, (Marinelli & Lawrence, 2020).

Instituting recommendations promoted in this publication that are not evidenced based such as: non-infected mothers at home or in hospital wearing a mask during milk expression, using chemicals to wipe down bags or bottles of freshly expressed milk, mothers' own frozen milk, frozen donated raw milk at a milk bank, or of pasteurized donor milk on receipt in the hospital, could have unintended consequences and are in conflict with current recommendations for food safety measures regarding safe human milk handling (1). Hospitals vary in their sanitizing protocols and assumptions about safety of chemicals that could gain access into milk feedings for newly born or fragile premature infants. We recommend caution until more is known about the true risk of SARS-CoV-2 transmission in this manner. Additionally, adding unsubstantiated fear or impediments to human milk feeding at this time may restrict breastmilk feeding when it is most critical for infant health.

We agree that following good handwashing guidelines for all infant care during this time is sound practice. COVID-19 infected mothers in the hospital should be given clear guidelines for cleaning pumping and infant feeding equipment. Draconian cleaning measures that are not evidenced based may have unintended consequences and are ill advised.

Sincerely,

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