

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT



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Large employer in Greeley is recognized for supporting breastfeeding employees.

Weld County, CO – ttech (formerly TeleTech), a call center facility in Greeley and one of Weld County’s largest employers is making it easier for working moms to continue breastfeeding after returning from maternity leave. They recently received the Breastfeeding Friendly Works-site Award from the Northern Colorado Breastfeeding Coalition (NCBC).

ttech recently upgraded their lactation room to include two comfortable nursing chairs with privacy partitions, plants, sound machine, and a refrigerator for storing milk to make for a comfortable relaxing atmosphere that the nursing employees appreciate. “I wanted to create a stress-free environment for our new mothers, where they could feel like they are not at work. Where they can sit and relax and not have to worry about anything.” said Jeffery Stoker, Facilities Administrator, who attended a worksite lactation support training provided by the health department and NCBC. The nursing employees at ttec appreciate the accommodations. Shaloon Honeyghan, an employee since 2012 said “I’m most grateful to ttec for providing its employees/mothers with a clean and inviting space to extract milk for our babies. The room is very inviting, calming, and clean, which allows for relaxation while “pumping.” The amenities such as the privacy, rocking chairs, books and refrigerator to store our breast milk adds to the benefit of this room. I bet not all employees have such accommodations for its breastfeeding mothers and I’m happy that ttec does.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommend mothers breastfeed their baby exclusively for the first six months and continue breastfeeding while introducing nutritious foods for at least a year and for as long as the mother and baby desire. Breastfeeding provides numerous health benefits for both the mom and baby. “The longer mothers breastfeed, the healthier it is for the mother, their baby, and our community” says Mike Schwan, Early Childhood Obesity Prevention Specialist at Weld County Public Health. “Most mothers do not breastfeed long enough to achieve all the associated health benefits due to barriers to breastfeeding, and this is where breastfeeding friendly employers can make a difference”.

Employers are finding that lactation support policies make good business sense due to the savings from reduced absenteeism. Employees who formula feed their baby on average are absent twice as frequently as those who breastfeed because breastfed babies are ill less frequently.

Federal and Colorado law require employers to provide reasonable break time and a private area, other than a toilet, to express breast milk for her nursing child. The NCBC Breastfeeding Friendly Work-site award is given to employers that go above the law by implementing a written worksite lactation support policy. Employers that meet the criteria are provided with a framed certificate, listed on the NCBC breastfeeding friendly employer directory www.nocobreastfeeding.org, and promoted on social media. Any employee or patron may nominate an employer by completing the nomination form on-line. For more information visit www.weldhealth.org or contact mschwan@weldgov.com.

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