

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Frederick Health Launches Home Visiting Service for Families and Infants *Family Connects Frederick County—an innovative, at-home service for families with newborns*

Frederick, MD (February 10, 2023) – Frederick Health is excited to announce that all Frederick County families that have delivered a baby at Frederick Health Hospital will be offered a home visit with a registered nurse approximately three weeks after their baby’s arrival. This is provided at no cost under the new service called Family Connects Frederick County, which began serving families in January 2023.

“We make it easy for families with newborns to get support and care when and where they need it. Families can expect to schedule their visit before they leave the hospital. Then the nurse will visit the family at home to provide services and personalized resources,” said Heather Kirby, Vice President, Integrated Care & Chief Population Health Officer, for Frederick Health.

The arrival of a new baby is a crucial time for families. The Family Connects Frederick County program offers support by providing each family with a 90-minute in-person visit. During the visit, the nurse will conduct a health and well-being assessment for both the baby and the parent. Additionally, the nurse will provide resources tailored to the family's specific needs, including lactation, nutrition, childcare, and more.

“Babies thrive when families have support,” said Dr. Barbara Brookmyer, Health Officer for Frederick County. “Early support for all newborns and their families sets the foundation for a healthier community in the long run, especially when they are connected with community services in the first 12 months of life. Positive experiences right from birth lead to lifelong health and well-being.”

To ensure that Family Connects Frederick County is tailored to the needs of local families, it is supported by two advisory committees: the Leadership Advisory Council and the Community Partner Council. These committees are composed of diverse community leaders and organizations, allowing the program to be responsive to the community's needs and fostering trust and engagement within Frederick County.

“I am hopeful the Family Connects program will help to improve the foundations of health and therefore alleviate the maternal and infant disparities in Frederick County. This service is another way of proving that we can be more creative and responsive to what the families from all parts of our community want and need,” said Dr. Yewande Oladeinde, a member of the Family Connects Frederick County Leadership Advisory Council.

Frederick Health has received grant funding for Family Connects through the Frederick County Government’s allocation of federal American Rescue Plan (ARPA) funds. Family Connects Frederick County is committed to maintaining the impact of this model in the community past 2025 and is currently developing a 10-year sustainability plan for this service.

To learn more about Frederick Health’s new at-home visitation service, visit frederickhealth.org/NewbornVisit.

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About Frederick Health

Frederick Health provides comprehensive healthcare services to the residents of Frederick County. The system includes Frederick Health Hospital, Frederick Health Medical Group, Frederick Health Employer Solutions, Frederick Health Home Care, and Frederick Health Hospice. Frederick Health Medical Group is a multi-specialty practice with more than 100 providers, 18 specialties, and 24 locations across the county. The system has several ambulatory care locations, the freestanding James M Stockman Cancer Institute, three urgent care locations, and the Frederick Health Village. With over 4,500 team members, Frederick Health provides a full spectrum of healthcare and wellness services to support its mission to positively impact the well-being of every individual in our community. For more information on Frederick Health, visit www.frederickhealth.org.

About Family Connects International

Family Connects International was established in 2008 through a partnership with Duke University Center for Child and Family Policy, the Center for Child and Family Policy, and the Durham County Health Department and is designed to support all families with newborns through integrative care and whole-person support.

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