



SAFE Feeding Sanitation Kit Decision-making Guide

This document will help guide you through the decisions you need to make when deciding whether or not infant and young child feeding sanitation kits are needed, and what to put in them.

Are sanitation kits needed?

(Or will they be needed, if planning for a potential emergency event)

- Is clean water easily accessible to everyone?
- Does everyone have power?
- Does everyone have access to a non-bathroom sink?
- Can all families properly clean feeding items easily?

Would providing education on DIY kit preparation be more effective for the current (or potential future) emergency?

What should be in the kit?

Deciding what to include:

- What type of emergency is currently happening? (Or is likely to happen in my area, when planning ahead for potential emergencies)
- What do people need?
- Are people displaced or sheltering-in-place?
- Are the included items easy to use with minimal instructions?
- Are included instructions easily understandable regardless of language or educational/literacy level?
- Are there prevalent cultural considerations within my community to be aware of?
- Where the kits be stored? Are there space considerations when storing supplies and/or assembled kits before/during an emergency? What is likely to be functional for families using the kits?

Deciding what to call it:

- What do you want people to DO with the kit?
- What do people in your area understand certain terms to mean?
- Is there risk to using certain terminology?

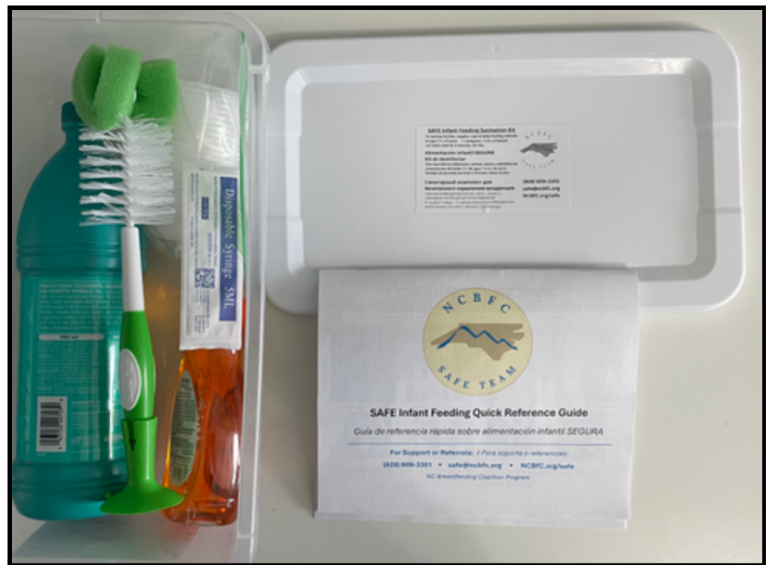
SAFE Feeding Kit Example: Hurricane Helene in Western NC, USA

Considerations:

- Long-term, widespread power and water outages
- Many displaced families living in shelters, hotels, tents, or with family/friends in close quarters.
- Damaged transportation infrastructure - many areas completely inaccessible except by foot or ATV.
- Large Latin-American and Eastern European immigrant populations with Spanish and Russian being the most common minority languages spoken in the community.
- Approximately 10-20% of population has only high school education or less with significant demographic/racial disparities
- Less than half of families earn a livable wage (ranges from 38% - 50% across counties served)

What we included:

- Plain bleach: To make water potable and to sanitize items after washing.
- 5mL syringe: to easily measure the correct amount of bleach
- Dish soap: for washing items
- Bottle brush with nipple cleaner: for cleaning out reusable bottles/nipples, cups, etc. that families may be using to feed their children
- Disposable cups, in a plastic baggie for cleanliness: for cup feeding
- Instruction booklet including cleaning and sanitizing instructions in English, Spanish, and an easy to follow pictorial format
- Plastic tub: to store materials and also to serve as a wash basin. Filling the tub approximately half-full with water, one syringe of bleach was needed, making preparation instructions easy to follow, even for limited english proficient families. The lid, if removed and placed top-side down, creates a clean space to allow items to air-dry following sanitation.



What we chose NOT to include:

- Sanitizing wipes: Increased cost, decreased effectiveness when cleaning compared to bleach/water
- Breast pump sterilization bags: Require use of microwave, electricity. These were provided on a case-by-case basis to families when provided with an electric breast pump AFTER confirming access to microwave and electricity.
- Mesh bag: cost, accessibility
- 5-gallon bucket: Storage concerns within our space, more difficult to transport into the field when needed due to size.
- Wash cloths: Concerns with harboring bacteria, mold/mildew if left damp between uses. No easy way to wash/dry thoroughly without access to water and electricity.
- Disposable gloves: Provide a false sense of cleanliness, often leading to increased cross-contamination.