Breast Milk Could Hold Clues to Coronavirus Protection. This New York City Researcher Wants to Study Yours.

She's examining whether the antibodies lingering in human milk can protect babies — and perhaps even adults one day — from coronavirus.

By Emma Ockerman

Apr 8 2020, 6:56pm
If you happen to have any breast milk to spare in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, there's a researcher at New York City's Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai who's urgently seeking it.

Rebecca Powell, a human milk immunologist, put out the call on social media a few days ago for breast milk. She wants hundreds of samples — particularly from people living in New York City, the epicenter of the U.S. outbreak — to examine whether the antibodies lingering in human milk can protect babies from coronavirus and perhaps even adults, much further down the line.

“There's a lot of lactating people out there that are getting infected and would be ready and willing to donate milk — I can tell you because I have hundreds of emails of people who want to participate, and many of them have said they had highly suspected infection or a positive test,” Powell told VICE News.
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Breast Milk Could Hold Clues to Coronavirus Protection. This New York City Researcher Is Looking for Answers.

VICE NEWS
Coronavirus Crops Up in New York and New Hampshire After U.S. Officials Warn of ‘Inevitable’ Outbreak
Researchers have warned that the virus may have spread
undetected in Washington state for six weeks, meaning more cases—potentially hundreds—could've gone unreported to health authorities

By Emma Ockerman
Mar 2 2020, 6:21pm

- 88 cases of novel coronavirus and 6 deaths in the U.S.

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All the other residents of the New York-area facility are presumed to be infected.

By Emma Ockerman
Mar 25 2020, 8:25pm

Residents of a New Jersey nursing home hit hard by COVID-19 were being