

Management of well infants born to a birth parent with suspected or known COVID-19

This document serves as guidance for the management for well neonates born to a birth parent with known or suspected (PUI) COVID-19. Neonates who require NICU-level care will be transferred to the NICU in a closed incubator by healthcare providers wearing appropriate PPE. Neonates who require standard level I nursery care will be managed under the following guidelines.

- 1) Due to physical limitations on the postpartum units, co-location of the birth parent and newborn in the same hospital room on labor and delivery and on the postpartum unit may occur. If possible and accepted by the birth parent, the COVID positive or PUI birth parent should be separated from the baby following delivery. The neonate should be transported to the postpartum unit in a closed incubator by a healthcare provider wearing appropriate PPE¹.
- 2) The following measures will be implemented to reduce the risk of viral spread from the ill birth parent to child.
 - a. Ideally, the neonate should be cared for by a healthy adult, if available, not the COVID positive or PUI birth parent. The healthy adult should use appropriate PPE¹.
 - b. If the birth parent and baby will be cared for in the same room:
 - i. The COVID positive or PUI birth parent and the neonate should be separated by a distance ≥ 6 feet if possible.
 - ii. If possible, a curtain or another physical barrier should separate the newborn from the ill birth parent.
 - iii. If 6 feet of separation is not possible due to facility physical limitations, the baby should be maintained in a closed incubator.
 - iv. If no other healthy adult is present to care for the newborn or if the birth parent declines to be separated from the newborn, the birth parent should wear appropriate PPE¹ and practice hand hygiene before each feeding or other close contact with the newborn. Appropriate PPE¹ should remain in place during contact with the newborn. These practices should continue while the birth parent is on transmission-based precautions in the healthcare facility.
 - c. If facility physical resources allow, a dedicated isolation nursery may be made available. This nursery will be closed to visitors and staffed by health care providers using appropriate PPE¹. Infants admitted to the isolation nursery will be treated as PUIs in closed incubators pending results of COVID testing. Infants admitted to the isolation nursery will remain in the isolation nursery until discharged from the hospital.
- 3) All infants of a birth parent with known COVID-19 will be tested for COVID-19 under current guidelines documented separately (*MSHS COVID testing for infants in the NICU or WBN*).
- 4) A birth parent who intends to breastfeed will be encouraged to express breast milk to establish and maintain milk supply. A dedicated breast pump will be provided. Prior to expressing breast milk, the birth parent should practice hand hygiene. After each pumping session, all pumping parts that come into contact with breast milk should be thoroughly washed. This expressed breast milk should be fed to the newborn by a healthy caregiver, if available.
- 5) If an ill birth parent wishes to feed at the breast, a facemask should be worn and hand hygiene completed before each feeding.
- 6) Discharge of the ill birth parent and neonate should follow regular post-partum practices barring other medical indications for a lengthened hospital stay.

- 7) Appropriate community-based precautions and/or quarantine upon discharge should be recommended based on current CDC, New York State, and/or institutional guidelines.
 - 8) For infants with pending testing results or who test negative for the virus that causes COVID-19 upon hospital discharge, caretakers should take steps to reduce the risk of transmission to the infant after discharge.
 - 9) Caretakers of the infant should be counseled on signs of COVID-19 disease in infancy (fever, tachypnea, poor feeding stamina, cough, etc.) and to have appropriate follow up in place to seek prompt medical attention.
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1. Appropriate PPE for COVID positive or PUI patients:
 - a. Surgical mask, face shield, gown, and gloves for all patients not requiring aerosolizing procedures
 - b. N95 mask, face shield, gown, and gloves for all patients requiring aerosolizing proceduresAerosolizing procedures are intubation, CPAP, IPPV