

## PERIPARTUM PROCESSES FOR COVID-19+ OR PUI MOTHERS AND THEIR NEONATES

- Pregnant patients who are PUI or COVID-19+ should be placed in isolation; an Epic order is required, and appropriate signage (cranberry isolation sign) should be utilized.
- Any hospital caregiver entering the room should don gown, gloves, N95/PAPR and eye protection.
- This isolation should continue for a minimum:
  - 10 days from the positive test.
  - 20 days of isolation will be necessary for any mother with an ICU stay or immunocompromised status as determined by infection prevention.
- Neonate should be considered a PUI and isolated in contact/droplet/eyewear with an Epic order.
- Neonate should be PCR tested for COVID-19 at 24-48 hours and, if negative, at 5-7 days. If negative, isolation and PUI status may be discontinued as early as day 10 with no further COVID-19 testing.
  - If there is concern for ongoing exposure to COVID-19, the infant should continue to quarantine for 10 days from the last exposure. For infants who remain hospitalized, please discuss discontinuation of isolation precautions with the infection prevention team.
- There is no evidence to show that the first bath needs to occur immediately. The neonate may have a delayed bath as per usual protocol.
- Mother may breastfeed her but must use appropriate hand hygiene and wear a mask while breastfeeding.
- Mother may pump to provide expressed breast milk for neonate but must use appropriate hand hygiene and wear a mask while; milk must be stored according to guidelines.
- Circumcision may be performed with all hospital caregivers using gown, gloves, N95 and eyewear.
- Kangaroo and skin-to-skin care may be done.
  - Mother/father/guardian must perform prior hand hygiene.
  - Mother/father/guardian must wear a mask during this time.
- When bed space is an issue, case-by-case evaluation of isolation duration, COVID-19 testing, and neonate placement should be done in conjunction with infection prevention.

### **Neonates rooming in with the mother:**

- Neonate may go in an isolette or bassinette, whichever is most suitable for the size and condition of the neonate.
- Mother should be educated to stay at least 6 feet from neonate when not actively involved in care.
  - Hospital caregivers should remind mother if noncompliance is noted and document re-education in chart.
- Mother should wear a mask at all times whenever possible while rooming with neonate and must wear a mask if holding the neonate.
  - Hospital caregiver in the room should use appropriate PPE to care for neonate in room.
  - Hospital caregiver should change PPE and perform hand hygiene between caring for the mother and neonate.
  - Neonate is not to be taken to the newborn nursery.
- If the mother requires a higher level of care and is transferred to ICU, the neonate will not room in with the mother.
- A neonate who cannot room in with the mother will need to be placed in a single room/ not taken to the newborn nursery. Possible considerations for placement include pediatrics, NICU, or postpartum room.
  - Appropriate PPE should be used for a COVID-19 PUI.

### **NICU Admissions for PUI**

- Neonate must be placed in a private room in contact/droplet/eyewear isolation.
- COVID-19 testing to be done at 24-48 hours of life and 5-7 days of life.
- If both tests are negative, isolation can be discontinued at day 10.
- A COVID-19+ mother may not visit the NICU for:
  - 10 days following a positive test or
  - 20 days from positive test for a mother who needed an ICU stay or immunocompromised medical condition warrants. Consult infection prevention.
  - If there is concern for ongoing exposure to COVID-19, the infant should continue to quarantine for 10 days from last exposure. For infants who remain hospitalized, please discuss with infection prevention discontinuation of isolation precautions.
- Mother may pump to provide expressed breast milk for neonate. The mother must use appropriate hand hygiene and wear mask while pumping.
  - Milk must be stored according to guidelines.

### **Cohorting**

- Cohorting of PUI neonates should be avoided whenever possible and only considered under extreme circumstances.
- Cohorting of COVID-19+ neonates should be avoided.
- Cohorting of PUI neonates can be done if absolutely necessary by placing them in the same room at least 6 feet apart.
- Very careful attention must be placed to assure hospital caregiver PPE changes between babies. This includes changing gown, gloves, N95 and eyewear each time.

### **Homegoing teaching that must be done for a neonate prior to discharge should be done as follows:**

- Attempt to have a second primary family/ caregiver present for the teaching.
- If this is not possible or not in the best interest of the baby, the teaching must be arranged to take place in a separate room other than the nursery or common area, and a COVID-19+ mother may attend only for the duration of the teaching.

### **Other:**

Other scenarios will be handled in collaboration with infection prevention.

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### **References:**

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/caring-for-newborns.html>

<https://www.aap.org/en/pages/2019-novel-coronavirus-covid-19-infections/clinical-guidance/faqs-management-of-neonates-born-to-covid-19-mothers/>