

COVID FAQ's for COVID Positive Patients, Persons Under Investigation (PUI), or Untested Mother

1. What is expected of a Mother during her admission for delivery?

- Keep your face mask on at all times while a staff member is in the room.
- Wash hands with sanitizer frequently.
- Let your Nurse know if there are any changes in their symptoms.

2. What is expected of your Support Person during the hospital stay?

- You may only have 1 support person throughout your stay. We encourage frequent hand hygiene with hand sanitizer.
- The Support Person is expected to be without a fever and without COVID symptoms. Their temperature will be checked twice daily.
- Should symptoms develop, the support person should notify the nurse immediately.
- Support person should keep a mask on at all times. The hospital can provide PPE for the support if needed. This can include a mask, gown, and gloves, as is appropriate to Mom's COVID status
- When direct support is not needed by a patient the support person should remain at least six feet away.
- The support person will be the primary care provider for the baby (changing diapers, bottle feeding, etc.)
- The support person will need to stay in the room with the mother and baby at all times. Food will be delivered from the cafeteria for you. If you have anything dropped off to the hospital- staff will bring it in to you. If support person leaves the room/unit they must exit hospital directly.

3. Why does the baby need to be physically distanced from the mother?

- Current literature suggests that there is limited transmission to the fetus during pregnancy. There is evidence for exposure following delivery, which is why special care must be taken including wearing PPE while handling the baby and maintaining a physical distance when not breast feeding to prevent transmission. These efforts will help prevent the baby from getting COVID after delivery.
- The Centers for Disease Control and American Academy of Pediatrics both recommend breast feeding and skin to skin time for mother and baby with adequate precautions in place.

4. What are the options for the care of the baby?

- The CDC currently recommends shared decision making between parents and the medical team with regard to preferred care for the baby. Parents may choose to have the baby in the room with them or to be separated and have the baby room in the SCN/NICU/Nursery if this type of space is available.

- Early and close contact between the mother and neonate has many well-established benefits. The ideal setting for care of a healthy, term newborn while in the hospital is in the mother's room, commonly called "rooming-in." Current evidence suggests the risk of a neonate acquiring COVID from its mother is low. Further, data suggests that there is no difference in risk of COVID infection to the neonate whether a neonate is cared for in a separate room or remains in the mother's room.
- Visitation of a baby outside of the room will require the use of PPE, timing/planning, and may not be an option until parents have completed a quarantine period or have tested negative for COVID.
- Parents who choose to room in will have the support person provide primary care for the newborn. Mother may breast feed while wearing a mask and after washing her hands.

5. Please note baby will be bathed shortly after delivery, per current guidelines

6. If the Mother is COVID unknown, why do we need all of the precautions? How long will they be in place?

- You either refused your COVID test and without knowing your result, we have to treat you as if you were positive "just in case" for our protection. If not tested this will remain the same for the remainder of your stay.
- OR- you have been directly exposed to COVID within the last 14 days and even with a negative result- there is still a chance that you could become positive or develop symptoms. This will remain the same for the remainder of your stay.

7. How should the patient communicate with her nurse?

- The patient and support person may use the call bell within the room. Please let them know that the HEPA filter can make it difficult to hear what they are saying, but that we will do our best at all times to tend to their needs.
- The Patient/support person may use the room phone to call the unit OR may call a nurse directly on a hand held phone. (*Write numbers on the board in room). Nursing can also offer specific times that they plan to call into the room.
- We can also offer unit iPads to help facilitate communication with patients

8. Will Mom and baby be seen by the doctor while they are here is they are COVID positive or a PUI?

- The medical team, including the Doctors and Advanced Practice Providers, will continue to provide you with the highest level of care, regardless of your COVID status. You and your baby will be seen every day by our medical staff. If you have any questions or concerns at any time, you may request to see a provider at any time.