

Information for Parents When Mom Has or Is Suspected to have Covid-19 Infection

Evanston Hospital

Our team is dedicated to providing the best possible care for you and your child. A big part of that care is making sure that you have the best and most transparent information. Here's what we know and what we are doing in situations where a mom has or is suspected to have Covid-19 infection:

- We do not know for certain whether or not the Covid-19 virus can be transmitted from mom to baby prior to delivery. The currently available evidence indicates that babies do not become infected while in the womb if mom has the infection. However, that evidence is limited, and current recommendations are that babies born to moms with proven or suspected Covid-19 infection should be treated as though they could have the infection.
- It is possible for babies to become infected with the Covid-19 virus after delivery through respiratory droplet spread, the same way that others become infected. There have been very few reports of newborns becoming infected with Covid-19, but we do not have enough information to estimate the degree of risk.
- There are two options for your baby's care after delivery. We will talk with you and make a shared decision about which option you prefer.
 - The first option is to care for you and your baby in separate locations. Your baby would be admitted to the Infant Special Care Unit (ISCU) immediately after delivery and cared for in a closed isolette using full isolation precautions. No visitors would be allowed for your baby. This approach will minimize the chances of your baby becoming infected after delivery.
 - The second option is to care for you and your baby in the same postpartum room. Your baby would be placed in a closed isolette immediately after delivery and taken to your postpartum room. Your baby would be cared for in the closed isolette for the duration of your stay and would be kept as far away as possible from you. You should plan to minimize contact with your baby, but if contact is necessary, you will be asked to perform hand hygiene and wear a mask and gloves. The risk of your baby becoming infected is probably slightly higher with this approach.
- There is no evidence that the Covid-19 virus can be transmitted in breastmilk, and we recommend breast milk feeding for your baby. However, your baby could become infected during the act of breastfeeding, and we recommend that moms pump breast milk for feeding to the baby by the nurse. If you do elect to put your baby to breast, you will be asked to take appropriate precautions including wearing a mask and gloves.
- Your baby will be discharged home with you when medically ready.
- Your baby will have a test for Covid-19 infection done at 24 and 48 hours of life, prior to discharge.
 - If the test is negative, we advise that you and your family take precautions to keep your baby separate from you to the greatest extent possible, following guidelines from the CDC (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-prevent-spread.html>). Those precautions should be continued until you have been told that you are no longer considered infectious to others.

- If the test is positive, you can care for your baby at home as you normally would, depending on your medical condition. Your baby should be followed closely by your pediatrician for the first 14 days of life.