

ILPQC Covid 19 Webinar 5/15/20

Neonatal Questions

- What are the recommended testing, discharge, and rooming-in guidelines for baby when the mother is COVID 19 positive? **Would refer to AAP and CDC; at SIU: if mom is asymptomatic and willing to follow PPE recommendations, then rooming in (either a negative airflow room or infants is in an isolette); if mom is symptomatic, then infant is in a separate negative airflow room; Newborns are being tested at 24 and 48 hours; discharge depends on mother's symptoms (including duration), home environment, and follow-up plan – hard to put it all in a protocol as there are many potential variables to consider.** At Northwestern Prentice, we are separating infants if the mother's tests or symptoms are within 10 days of delivery. If the mother has recovered for greater than 10 days, dyad should room in. We are testing all babies born within 14 days of a positive test at 24 and 48 hours, including those that room in. If mother has not recovered, we are recommending a healthy caregiver to assist with baby care post-discharge (until AAP criteria met for resolution).
- What if a mother who is positive wants to keep her baby in the room and not isolate? **SIU: see above.** We have not yet encountered this, but are continuing to discuss. We did speak to one asymptomatic mother about how symptoms can occur post-delivery.
- Please discuss separation of mother baby dyad as well as strategies for patients who decline to separate. **SIU: from a newborn patient safety perspective, s/he should be separated from a symptomatic mother – at least in the hospital;** We are continuing to advise that we do not know everything about this virus, but do know that asymptomatic carriers can spread it and also that asymptomatic carriers can develop symptoms so a good safety net for both mom and baby is important.
- WHO, etc say moms & babes not be separated in this pandemic. Are we supporting this? Are pedi colleagues on the same page? **SIU: see above** At Northwestern, we are supporting if mother has recovered (using CDC definition, > 10 days from symptom onset).
- Does any of the hospitals have 6th grade level and below visual education materials for mom and family care regarding COVID 19 and information for mom and for caring for newborn? **SIU: no.** Northwestern: no SSM Health (including St. Mary's Hospital – St. Louis) has information with general information for mothers and families about the implications having COVID and information about separation vs. rooming in. ILPQC has adapted from Rush a breastfeeding document for moms with COVID. All of these resources are available on ilpqc.org.