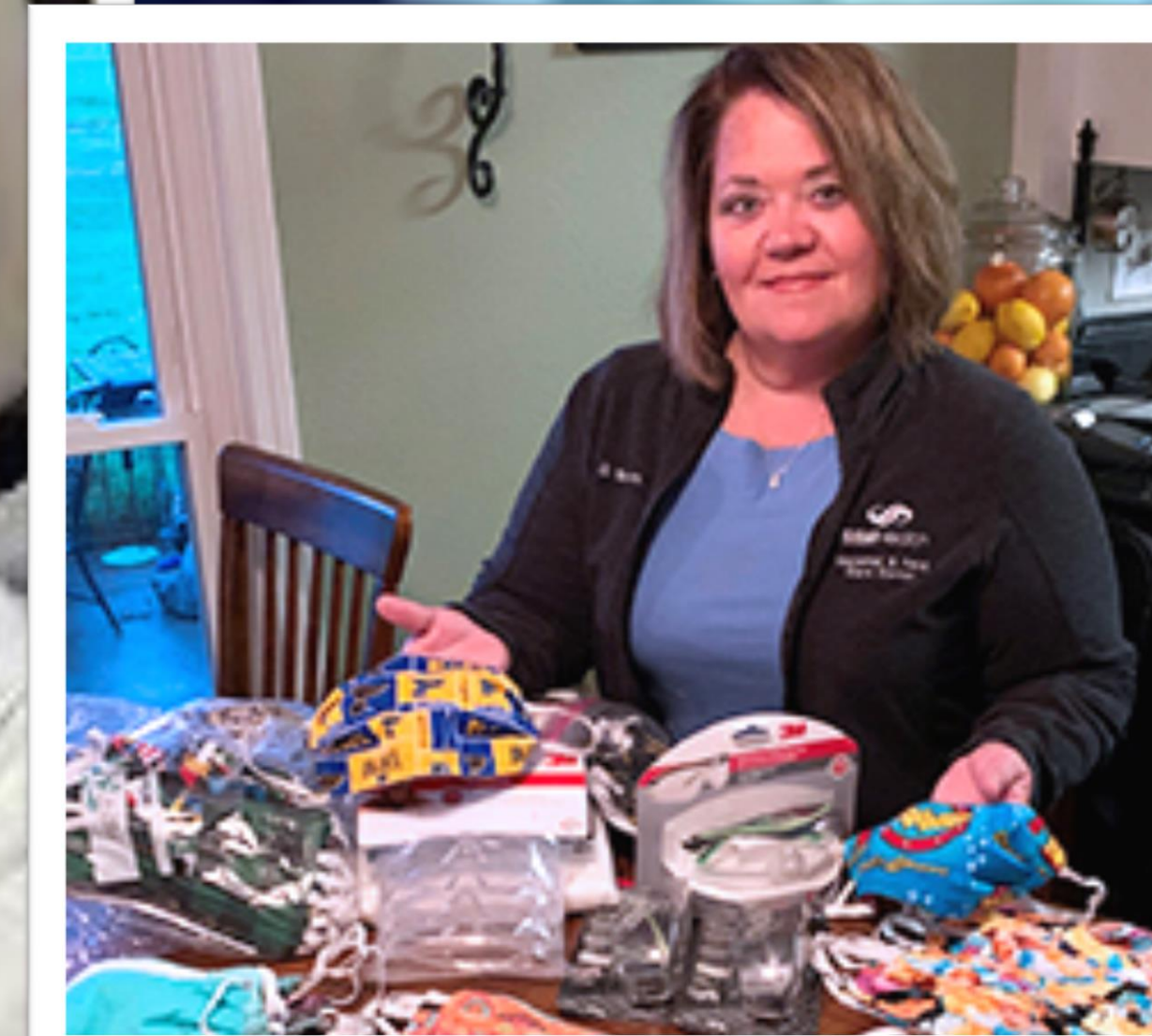


## Problem

- Healthcare systems worldwide were challenged early in 2020 with the burden of providing care during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- While most elective and routine services were suspended or postponed while resources were devoted to the care of the acutely ill, maternity services could not be postponed.
- At our hospital, leaders in the perinatal units were tasked with planning and coordinating care for obstetric and neonatal patients with little knowledge base regarding this novel virus and very little time to prepare.
- Our hospital system is spread over four states, with each region experiencing differing rates of infection and availability of supplies/resources.
- With daily, sometimes hourly, changes in recommendations from the CDC and leading medical organizations, important decisions had to be made while competing for the resources of time and direction from our hospital's Incident Command.



## Project Implementation

- System-wide interdisciplinary meetings were held through the OB Governance platform.
- Our internal perinatal leadership group adapted current recommendations to best serve our region and population.
- Under direction of strong Nursing leadership, the decision was made to co-locate COVID positive or PUI mothers with their newborns based on understanding separation itself is not without risk and concerns for care upon discharge.
- We created an entirely separate unit consolidating the services of our Antepartum, L&D, Postpartum, and Nursery units in one isolated area.

## Conclusions

Through strong Nursing leadership and interdisciplinary collaboration, we were able to quickly provide safe and compassionate care to mothers and infants during the current Pandemic. Decisions were made weighing the known harms of mother/infant separation against the potential harms of COVID transmission.

## Results

- Safe and appropriate care is being provided to mothers and infants impacted by COVID.
- Mothers are taught and modeled how to safely care for their babies in the hospital and once they go home, focusing on risk reduction.

