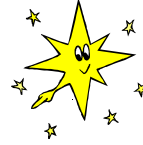


## ***Information for Families About Contact Precautions***



Bacteria are naturally present in very small amounts on the human body. Individuals who have these bacteria are said to be “colonized.” Being colonized means that the bacteria is present but doesn’t mean it is causing a problem. Although being colonized is generally not a problem for you or your baby, it may be a problem for others (e.g., sick or very premature babies).

Colonization does not require treatment with medicine. Healthy individuals, infants and adults alike, will clear these bacteria from their bodies over time. Often, a few precautions and good handwashing are enough to keep the bacteria from spreading to other people and places.

The staff working with you and your infant will wear gowns and gloves (“Contact Precautions”) to prevent spreading the bacteria to other patients. These precautions do not apply to you as family members because you only have contact with your own baby. As always, we do ask you to wash your hands when entering and leaving the baby’s care area. Handwashing is the best way to prevent the spread of any bacteria.

Outside the hospital, it is unlikely that your baby will pose a risk to others. Nevertheless, it is a good idea to remind your pediatric providers about your baby’s colonization.