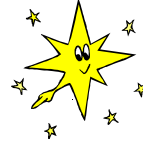


## ***Information for NICU Families About Contact Precautions***



People are often colonized with various bacteria; bacteria are naturally present on the human body. Testing is performed weekly on NICU babies to monitor for certain bacteria in the nose or diaper area of infants. We use extra procedures or “precautions” when we find these bacteria. The infants who have these bacteria are said to be ‘colonized.’ Being colonized just means that the bacteria is present but doesn’t mean it is causing a problem.

Your baby was found to have one of these bacteria during routine testing. The NICU staff who are working with your infant will wear gowns and gloves (contact precautions) to prevent spreading the bacteria to other infants. 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.

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

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.