

INFORMATION ABOUT CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) AND THE NEONATAL INTENSIVE CARE UNIT

Dear NICU Families,

In our Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and Special Care Unit (SCN), we embrace family-centered care and strive to integrate families into the care team. With guidance from BILH and the CDC, we continue to adjust our policies to protect babies, families, and staff in response to COVID-19.

- If you are sick, you will not be able to enter the NICU. If you are not feeling well or have symptoms of illness, please defer coming to the NICU until you are symptom free.
- Anyone visiting the NICU will be asked a brief set of questions to assess for COVID-19 exposures, including recent symptoms and contact with others with COVID-19. Those with any of these risks will be asked to postpone NICU entry per hospital guidelines.
- **When your family comes to the NICU, we want to support you being here as much as possible. Two people may visit at a time. One of these must be a parent. Both parents may visit together, or a parent and another person may visit. No more than two people may be at each bed space. No one under 18 years of age may visit the NICU at this time. You will be screened each time you visit.**
- Anyone entering the NICU will also be asked to wear a hospital-issued surgical mask during their visit. You will receive a mask in the lobby after you are screened. In the NICU, please only wear masks provided by the hospital.
- We ask that all staff and visitors practice physical distancing both in and outside of the NICU. This means keeping at least 3 to 6 feet between you and other people, including those without any symptoms.
- A member of your baby's clinical team will provide you with updates and you may attend rounds with the multidisciplinary team. Please ask to speak with your baby's provider at any time with questions or concerns regarding your baby's care.
- Family resource rooms will be opening on June 21, 2021 with physical distancing and cleaning guidelines in place. Water is available in the parent hallway, and your nurse can get you other refreshments if needed. We have placed snack bags for families in all units.
- **As always, hand cleaning is of the utmost importance.** Please thoroughly wash your hands with soap or use alcohol-based sanitizers (such as Purell or CalStat) frequently. This includes when you are entering and leaving the NICU, entering into your baby's room, and before and after every contact with your baby. We ask that you practice these precautions outside of the NICU as well.

We understand that being in the NICU is a very stressful time for families and we will facilitate virtual communication to the best of our ability. We hope you understand that these temporary changes have been implemented to keep babies in the NICU safe, and we appreciate your cooperation with these and any future changes. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of your baby's health care team.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Tolland

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NICU Nursing Director