

# SARS-CoV-2 Infection and the Neonate

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# Clinical Care – Pregnant Women

- Asymptomatic infected individuals and transmission common
- Routine testing of all pregnant women admissions now widespread
- 14% of asymptomatic pregnant women admitted in NY were positive\*
- Categories
  - Known covid-19 negative
  - Known covid-19 positive
  - Test results pending
    - With clinical features / epidemiologic risk factors (PUI)
    - Surveillance
  - Not tested

} What PPE  
should staff  
wear?

\*Sutton et al, NEJM 2020

# Clinical Care - Neonates

- Vertical transmission rare, if at all
- Risk of horizontal transmission
  - In hospital – exposure to healthcare workers, adult family members, siblings
  - At home after discharge
    - Munoz et al. NEJM case report
    - Iran case report
- Ensuring safe hospital discharge
  - Identify appropriate care givers who are not infected
  - Logistics – e.g., car seat, testing
  - Education – hand hygiene, social distancing, breast feeding
  - Pediatric office follow-up
  - Avoid face shields for infants

# Neonates - Categories

- Known covid-19 negative
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# Assessment and Decision for Outborn Infants

- Methodical approach to assessment and decision-making (checklist):
  - Patient location
  - Timing of covid-19 testing
  - Transmission-based precautions
  - Visitation
  - Breastfeeding
  - Ancillary service limitations
  - Infection control notification
- EMR dot phrase

**NICU COVID-19 CHECKLIST**

<b>NAME:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>			
<b>MRN:</b>	<b>LOCATION / BEDSPACE:</b>			
<b>ASSESSMENT</b>				
<b>Why is the patient suspected or confirmed to have COVID-19 infection? (circle all that apply)</b>				
Exposure to confirmed COVID-19 person	Exposure to suspected COVID-19 person	Symptomatic	Positive test	Other, specify: _____
<b>Does the patient currently have any aerosol-generating conditions**? (circle one)</b>				
Yes	No			
<b>DECISION-MAKING</b>				
<b>Assign COVID status (circle one):</b>				
COVID-positive	COVID-PUI	COVID-Surveillance	Non-COVID	
<b>Does this patient need to be moved or admitted to a COVID designated area? (circle one)</b>				
Leave in same location	Move to E-Pod	Move to PFW	Other, specify: _____	
<b>Should a COVID-19 test be sent now in this patient? (circle one)</b>				
Yes	No			
<b>What precautions should staff follow? (circle all that apply)</b>				
Standard	Contact	Droplet	Enhanced Respiratory	
<b>When should staff use an N95 respirator? (circle one)</b>				
For all patient care at all times		For aerosol-generating conditions** only		
<b>Should the parents or other family members be allowed to visit? (circle one)</b>				
Yes	No	Yes with the following precautions _____		
<b>Is direct breast feeding allowed? (circle one)</b>				
Yes	No	N/A		
<b>Can Ancillary Services (PT/OT) continue seeing the patient? (circle one)</b>				
Yes	No	Yes with the following precautions _____		
<b>Has Infection Control been informed? (circle one)</b>				
Yes	No	Not necessary at this time		

**\*\*Aerosol-generating conditions:**

Populations: Tracheostomy, Intubated, NIPPV, CPAP, HFNC

Procedures: Intubation, Extubation, Nebulized medications, Airway suction, Bag-mask ventilation, CPT, CPR, Bronchoscopy, Lower respiratory tract sampling (trach aspirate)

# Responding to Exposure / Infection

- Patient / family members
- Healthcare workers
- Confusion and variation in recommendations from different sources

# Responding to Exposure / Infection

- Patient / family members
- Healthcare workers
- Confusion and variation in recommendations
- Structured, systematic approach to disclosure - Checklist useful
  - Review facts and advice to be given
  - Interpreters
  - Advice about monitoring, precautions, symptoms
  - Advice to protect other family members
  - Psychologic support
  - Risk management



# Healthcare Workers – Physical Wellness

- Universal masking in hospital
- Contact tracing and isolation
- Masks outside of hospital
- Hand hygiene, surface hygiene, social distancing
- Regular exercise, sleep

# Healthcare Workers – Mental Wellness Addressing the ‘Panicdemic’

- Hear me
- Protect me
- Prepare me
- Support me
- Care for me (and my family)

# Healthcare Workers – Mental Wellness

## Addressing the ‘Panicdemic’

- Daily Neonatal Section Calls
  - Connection, cohesion
  - Poetry
  - Optimism corner
- Individual check-ins with faculty
- Hospital program for psychologic support
- Regular review of data, evidence, PPE numbers
- Meditation sessions