ALGORITHM FOR DYADS WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 INFECTION

(as of 3 April 2020)



BREASTFEEDING MOTHER

PATIENT UNDER MONITORING (PUM) / PATIENT UNDER INVESTIGATION

- Mothers with respiratory symptoms should wear mask properly
- All mothers should practice strict hand hygiene
- · Mother should be tested for COVID-19
- Temporarily separate the mother and baby until test results are available
- If discharged before test is available, practice home isolation precautions as follows:
 - When expressing/pumping milk, employ strict hand hygiene; use gloves and face mask as necessary
 - Baby is cared for by separate well individual, fed via cup or other alternative method
 - Ensure proper support for dyad while on expression during quarantine period until return to breastfeeding
 - While not breastfeeding, ensure mother is expressing milk by hand or using a breast pump at least 8-12x a day
- Should mother decide to breastfeed, involve a healthcare professional in the decision process for proper advice and guidance

Mother is COVID-19 NEGATIVE Baby may not be tested Mother is tested Mother is COVID-19 POSITIVE BABY is COVID-19 NEGATIVE /

Baby is

tested

Awaiting Results

Baby is COVID-19

POSITIVE

- May Room-in
- Encourage breastfeeding per demand
- Advise strict infection control measures for the dyad
- Emphasize proper hand hygiene in caring for the baby

NOT A PUI/PUM

- Room-in
- Encourage breastfeeding
- Emphasize strict hand hygiene
- If mother and baby are stable, discharge early and give necessary breastfeeding instructions



HOME INSTRUCTIONS

- Separate the mother and the baby until 14 days from resolution of symptoms or 14 days from the last significant exposure if the mother is asymptomatic
- Continue isolation precautions until baby's test results are available
- Establish and maintain mother's breastmilk production by expressing her milk 8 to 12x in 24 hours
- Advise strict hand hygiene; use clean gloves and face mask while expressing milk or touching storage or feeding equipment; follow proper cleaning and sterilising procedures
- Expressed breastmilk should be given to the baby by a well caregiver who should follow proper hand hygiene
- Provide support for dyad on milk expression until out of isolation and encourage return to breastfeeding
- Should mother decide to breastfeed, involve a healthcare professional in the decision process for proper advice and guidance



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NOTES:

- We emphasize that the key to prevent the spread of COVID-19 infection is through strict adherence to infection control measures such as hand hygiene, proper cough etiquette, physical distancing and the proper use of personal protective equipment as necessary.
- Breastmilk is still the optimal way to feed and protect the newborn.
- The decision to breastfeed solely rests on the mother, guided by the health care provider, in conjunction to institutional policies.
- If the mother chooses to defer latching temporarily, breastmilk expression at least 8 to 12 times a day should be done to protect and maintain her milk supply.

REFERENCES:

- 1. CDC. Interim Guidance on Breastfeeding for a Mother Confirmed or Under Investigation For COVID-19. Accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html. Accessed on 13 Mar 2020.
- 2. ABM. ABM Statement on Coronavirus 2019 (CoVid-19). https://www.bfmed.org/abm-statement-coronavirus. Accessed on 12 Mar 2020.
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- 4. DOH. Algorithm of triage of patients with possible CoVid-19 infection in health care facilities. Accessed on 16 March 2020.
- 5. PSNbM, Care Of Newborns Of Suspected/Confirmed Covid19 Mothers. 24 March 2020

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS IN CARE OF NEWBORNS OF SUSPECTED/CONFIRMED COVID19 MOTHERS PHILIPPINE SOCIETY OF NEWBORN MEDICINE⁵

State of the Mother	RNA-PCR testing on the mother for SARS-CoV-2 using pharyngeal swab	RNA-PCR testing on the newborn for SARS-CoV-2 using pharyngeal swab	Isolation of the mother	Management of the newborn during hospital stay	Breastfeeding
Confirmed COVID19 but stable	Already done	Yes	Yes	Admit in Isolation Room Room-in once baby's test results are positive Stays in Isolation Room if result is negative. May be discharged with caregiver designated by mother	Expressed MOM Breastfeed once roomed-in together with respiratory and hand hygiene
Confirmed COVID19 but unstable	Already done	Yes	Yes	Admit in Isolation Room if stable. May be discharged with caregiver designated by mother. Admit in NICU Isolation if unstable	Expressed MOM, if feasible, or pasteurized breastmilk
Mother under investigation but stable	Yes	Only if mother is positive	Yes, in a dedicated area of the Postpartum Ward, pending result of lab test	Admit in Isolation Room pending result of lab test. If mother has negative lab result, room-in with mother	Expressed MOM If mother has negative lab result, encourage treastfeeding
Mother under investigation but unstable	Yes	Only if mother is positive (lab or radiologic evidence of ARDS)	Yes, in the ICU Isolation	Admit in Isolation. May be discharged with caregiver designated by mother	Expressed MOM, if feasible, or pasteurized breastmilk