

GUIDELINE Newborn of COVID-19 positive mother (within 21d before delivery)

By Belgian Pediatric COVID-19 Task Force, 21/3/2020

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To be adapted locally. Most important = to have a separate patient circuit for COVID-19.

Every pregnant woman with symptoms should be tested a.s.a.p. In case of a suspicion of COVID at delivery, the baby cannot go home before the result (in order to set up necessary measures at home).

Prefer polyclinical delivery in COVID-dedicated delivery room:

- Use full COVID-PPE (personal protective equipment) as per local protocol
- Discharge withing 24h from delivery room itself if possible
- Mother wears a surgical mask in the vicinity of her child or whilst breastfeeding & disinfects her hands before touching the baby (for at least 21 days – also at home)
- When not taking care of baby, the cot remains at a distance of more than 1.5 meters
- Inform parents on possible clinical signs of COVID infection (grunting, insufficient feeding, lethargy, pale color, cyanosis, ...)
- Standard follow-up by midwife at home (with PPE) and of the neonate in ambulatory pediatric setting after one week (with PPE) if this can be guaranteed

If early discharge of mother/child not possible:

Preferrably nurse the mother and child in a COVID (pediatric) department (with help of a dedicated midwife), preferrably as far away as possible from regular maternity patients (in order to keep COVID out of maternity).

1) If the mother is moderately / seriously ill:

- Mother transferred to COVID unit and infant to COVID pediatric unit (if all right) or NICU (if sick).

2) When mother is not or mildly ill, and the child is in good condition:

- Preferrably both admitted together in a COVID ward (with help of a dedicated midwife) or in a COVID dedicated maternity ward (in some level III centres)
- Keep child 1.5 meter from mother
- no NPA, only if baby is symptomatic (will be negative in beginning anyway)
- standard surveillance of vital signs and temperature
- breastfeeding or skin-to-skin **ONLY** with surgical mask & after hand alcohol, after washing of breasts/chest with soap
- breast milk pumps or expressed breast milk cannot leave the room (like any other material present in the room)
- **NO VISIT**; however partner is allowed (but does not leave the room) and wears surgical mask, disinfects hands before touching the baby and before feeding the baby.
- EVERY symptom (fever, grunting, respiratory...) in neonate:
 - call pediatrician urgently
 - admission to isolation room in tertiary NICU

3) If the mother is not or mildly ill and neonate needs NICU/N*:

- mother transferred to COVID department
- neonate on N*/NICU in COVID-isolation:
 - expressed breastmilk **ONLY** if bottles can be disinfected appropriately
 - intensive care measures as appropriate
 - No NICU visit of COVID-positive parent authorised (discuss specific situations on a case-by-case basis)

References

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