

# **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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