

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Patient Exposure Risk Assessment Guidance

CDC defines close contact as being within 6 feet for a cumulative total of 15 minutes or more over a 24-hour period with someone with SARS-CoV-2 infection unless there is an AGP.

NICU Neonate Lab-Confirmed COVID-19 Positive (located in congregate setting or POD)					
Risk Level	AGP ¹ on Positive Neonate	<6 ft for > 15 min from Positive Neonate	Physical Barrier ² Between Neonates	Neonate in Incubator ³	Actions
No Exposure	No	No	N/A	N/A	None
Low Risk	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	- No isolation needed - Watch for new clinical concerns⁴ - Follow isolation guidance⁵ if COVID-19-like symptoms start
Medium Risk	Yes	No	N/A	N/A	- No isolation needed - Watch for new clinical concerns⁴ - Follow isolation guidance⁵ if COVID-19-like symptoms start - Depending on the census may consider moving exposed neonates to a separate pod for 10 days - Test exposed neonate now - May consider repeat COVID-19 test at 5-7 days
	Yes	Yes	Yes	N/A	
	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	
High Risk	Yes	Yes	No	No	- No isolation needed - Watch for new clinical concerns⁴ - Follow isolation guidance⁵ if COVID-19-like symptoms start - Move exposed neonates to a separate pod/rooms for 10 days - Test neonates now and again at 5-7 days

- AGP:** Aerosol generating procedures. See AGP the list of procedures on the COVID-19 [Aerosol generating procedures](#).
- Physical Barrier:** Curtain, divider, or any other physical separation that goes from the floor to the ceiling.
- Incubator:** Neonate bed with full cover and portholes for access. Remains closed unless there are procedures requiring it to be opened.
- New clinical concerns:** Unexplained fever or unexplained need for increased respiratory support.
- Isolation guidance:** Refer to the following tool kit document – [PPE Reference Guide](#).

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Parent/Caregiver or Team Member who is COVID-19 positive						
Risk Level	<6 ft for > 15 min from Positive Case	Case Held Neonate ¹	Case was PPE Compliant ²	Case was Symptomatic ³	Physical Barrier ⁴ between Case and Neonates	Action
No Exposure	No	No	N/A	N/A	N/A	• None
Low Risk	Yes	No	Yes	N/A	N/A	• No isolation needed • Watch for new clinical concerns⁵ • Follow isolation guidance⁶ if COVID-19-like symptoms start
	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	
Medium Risk	Yes	No	No	No	No	• No isolation needed • Watch for new clinical concerns⁵ • Follow isolation guidance⁶ if COVID-19-like symptoms start • Depending on the census may consider moving exposed neonates to a separate pod for 10 days • Test exposed neonate now • May consider repeat COVID-19 test at 5-7 days
	Yes	No	No	Yes	Yes	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	
High Risk	Yes	No	No	Yes	No	• No isolation needed • Watch for new clinical concerns⁵ • Follow isolation guidance⁶ if COVID-19-like symptoms start • Move exposed neonates to a separate pod/rooms for 10 days • Test neonates now and again at 5-7 days
	Yes	Yes	No	N/A	No	
	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	

- Held Neonate:** Skin to skin, feeding, cradling and other similar activities.
- PPE Complaint:** Appropriate utilization of face mask over mouth and nose throughout duration of exposure.
- Symptomatic:** Fever, nasal congestion, cough, headache, myalgias, sore throat, vomiting, diarrhea or other symptoms of COVID-19.
- Physical Barrier:** Curtain, divider, or any other physical separation that goes from the floor to the ceiling.
- Isolation guidance:** Refer to the following tool kit document – [PPE Reference Guide](#)
- New clinical concerns:** Unexplained fever or unexplained need for increased respiratory support

Resources

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- CDC Symptom-Based Strategy to Discontinue Isolation for Persons with COVID-19, May 3, 2020 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/strategy-discontinue-isolation.html>
- AAH Personal Protective Equipment Resource Guide for PPE. <https://www.advocatehealth.com/covid-19-info/assets/documents/ppe-resource-guide.pdf>
- AAH Aerosol Generating Procedure (AGP) Document <https://www.advocatehealth.com/covid-19-info/assets/documents/aerosol-generating-procedures.pdf>
- PPE signage: Droplet/Contact Precautions (ED/Hospital) https://www.advocatehealth.com/covid-19-info/assets/documents/ed-hospital-signage/droplet-and-contact-precautions_ppe_sign_update-4.27.2020.pdf
- PPE signage: Airborne/Contact Precautions (ED/Hospital) https://www.advocatehealth.com/covid-19-info/assets/documents/ed-hospital-signage/airborne-and-contact-precautions_ppe_sign_update-4.27.2020.pdf
- CDC Discontinuation of Transmission-Based Precautions for patients with COVID-19: Update May 2, 2020. <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/disposition-hospitalized-patients.html>
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