# BREAST MILK HANDLING FOR INFANTS OF MOTHERS COVID+/PUI

v.4/24/20 (Reviewed 10/26/21)

#### **MAIN POINTS:**

- 1. Mothers under isolation precautions/quarantine may provide expressed breast milk to infants.
- 2. Patients are instructed in proper handwashing, cough etiquette, use of mask, gloves, and pump cleaning.
- 3. Milk containers are disinfected prior to storage and before transport. The disinfected bottles remain in a zippered bag until decanted into new bottles/syringes.
- 4. Send family home with milk collection bottles and educate to process for milk delivery to hospital.

# Transport of milk to another area for storage or use:

#### In-house:

- Patient's RN/staff member retrieves properly labeled milk from the plastic bag in patient's room. (bottles inside bag are disinfected by parent with Sani-wipe, (L# 114763) then wiped down with water afterwards)
- 2nd staff member (outside of the patient room, wearing gloves) receives the disinfected labeled bottles into a clean plastic zippered bag.

## • From Drop-off:

- Arrange for Lactation/staff nurse to meet at car with clean zippered plastic bag and new supply of milk collection bottles. Family will call to coordinate.
- o Bottles will be placed into new zippered plastic bag for transport.

#### • Prior to storage in receiving unit:

- Wearing gloves, remove milk from bag.
- Wipe the outside of the bottle with Sani-wipe (L# 114763), then with a wet paper towel after dwell time complete.
- If fresh milk: Decant into new bottles/syringes and label per standards
- If frozen milk: store milk in new plastic zippered bag

### **Inpatient Breastmilk Pumping Guidance**

- Provide mother with milk collection bottles and plastic zippered bags.
- Teaching:
  - Hand Hygiene prior to and mask (standard mask, if available) during pumping
  - Cleaning of surfaces
    - Wear gloves when using hospital grade cleaning wipes.
  - Collect milk into clean bottles (preferred over bags for cleaning
  - o Labeling patient information, date and time pumped.
  - Cleaning of pump parts
  - Wipe closed bottle with Sani-wipes (L# 114763). Once dry, wipe again with wet paper towel and then place in plastic zippered bag.

# Outpatient or Discharge instructions for COVID+/PUI Mothers providing breastmilk for in hospital use:

- Support person at home will wipe labeled bottles/covers down with household sanitizing wipes (if available).
  - If sanitizing wipes unavailable, use a fresh solution of 1/8th teaspoon unscented household bleach in 2 cups of cool water- this solution expires after 24 hours.
  - This is considered an organic safe solution and does not need to be wiped off.
- Place bottles into a zippered plastic bag and store per standards.
- To deliver milk to the hospitalized patient, a drop off process will be utilized.
  - o Parent will call the unit and coordinate drive-up drop-off.
  - Upon arrival to hospital, a staff member will meet them with a new zippered plastic bag.
  - Staff member will hold the plastic bag open and the support person will transfer milk from the home bag into a NEW plastic bag for transport.