

## Provider & Staff Instructions for Discharging Newborns to COVID-19+/PUI Caregivers

v.4/22/20 (reviewed 10/26/21)

Infant discharge may require special visitation considerations if alternative caregivers are unable to be identified. The following considerations will be made in discharge planning:

- Infectious status of parent
- Home assistance/ home situation for infant care
- Consideration of infant's feeding readiness and ability/difficulty to feed
- Need for Specialized discharge teaching

❖ **Before discharge teaching is arranged with COVID+ caregiver, NICU leadership should contact the facility's Infection Preventionist to discuss visitation situation and timeline for discharge.**

### Exceptions to SLHS visitor policy:

- Parent/caregiver who has tested COVID+ or is a PUI and is receiving specialized teaching for a discharging infant
- Caregiver will enter building masked and remain with mask in place until they leave the building.
- Parent will be met by a staff member and escorted to/from the discharging location-see below for location/criteria.
  - Parent/caregiver: Gown and gloves are not necessary.
  - Discharging staff member in teaching room: should wear PPE per current guidelines for COVID+ patient

### Discharge Teaching and Education:

Complete as much discharge education over the phone and/or video options as possible.

In-Person discharge teaching locations are to be identified by individual sites:

- **Newborn:** Teaching is completed in the designated area or inpatient maternal room.
  - If alternative caregiver is available: discharge teaching will occur in designated area or infant location. Recommendations from CDC regarding separation of infant and COVID+/PUI will be given.
- **NICU:** Location may be outside of NICU patient care area to decrease transmission risk.
  - For extended teaching requirements: if infant is in a negative pressure room, the parent may remain in the room with the infant, pending leadership approval.
  - Discharging NICU RN should minimize re-entry to NICU until discharge complete.
  - Upon completion of discharge, the discharging RN should change into new hospital issue scrubs prior to taking on new duties.

**If Car seat test/challenge** is ordered prior to discharge, the parent/caregiver should be informed ASAP to either leave car seat in original packaging or to clean car seat with sanitizing wipes and then place in plastic bags. The wrapped or packaged car seat should be brought directly to the newborn's location, and all plastic wiped with hospital grade sanitizing wipes prior to use.