

Women and Children's Health Program Information for the Special Care Nursery Visitors

- We consider parents to be essential care providers to our infants in the special care nursery, and our policy is created to maximize safety for our most vulnerable patients and the staff that care for them with family centered care in mind.
- Everyone is screened prior to entering the hospital regarding symptoms and contact within your home and community, travel history and vaccination status.
- If a designated support person does not pass screening, further discussion regarding their ability to visit must be had with management and Infection Prevention and Control prior to their entry to the Special Care Nursery.
- Even if you come with your own mask, you will be asked to remove it and replace with a clean one provided upon arrival by our screening team. We have clean paper bags for the storage and protection of your mask. All designated support people must wear their hospital-issued mask at all times.
- **Two (2)** designated visitors are permitted for each patient in the Special Care Nursery. They will be given red arm bands to show that they are designated. They are permitted to visit the Nursery one at a time, and need to swap outside of the hospital.
- Please prepare to stay in the Special Care Nursery with your baby to provide skin to skin care, feeding support, as well as general soothing and care around the clock. We have pull-out beds to allow parents and babies to be together while baby grows and recovers.
- If eating is necessary while in the special care nursery, eating must occur in designated areas in your patient room, where **strict hand hygiene, minimal time with mask removed, and cleaning of the area** once mask is put back on. Ask your baby's nurse if you have questions or concerns.
- Designated support people may drink water from their own water bottle, with quick movement of mask off and then on again to do so. **Strict hand hygiene practices need to be followed before and after touching your mask.**
- Any needs for exceptions to the above rules, must go through hospital management as well as Infection Prevention and Control for approval, and will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

Any questions or concerns regarding this guideline can be brought to the attention of the charge nurse for consideration

Please call 519-621-2333 ext. 4310 to check on your baby at any time

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