

Date:	April 17, 2020
To:	All Staff and Physicians in Maternity Units and UHNBC Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) Primary Care Providers (family practice physicians, nurse practitioners and midwives) Specialists: Obstetricians/Gynecologists and Pediatricians Primary care interprofessional teams Preventive Public Health
From:	Dr. Bill Kingston, Medical Lead, Perinatal Program; Vanessa Salmons, Executive Lead, Perinatal Program; Kelly Gunn, VP Primary & Community Care and Chief Nursing Executive
CC:	Penny Anguish, NI COO; Angela De Smit, NE COO; Ciro Panessa, NW COO; Northern Health Medical Directors, NH EOC
Re:	COVID-19 in Pregnancy and Newborn – New and Updated BCCDC Clinical Guidance

Issue:

To provide information on clinical guidance added and updated to the [BCCDC COVID-19 in Pregnancy](#) webpage:

- NEW Newborns Guidance documents have been added (April 15, 2020):
- UPDATED General Guidance documents have been added (Version 2: April 15, 2020)

Background:

- Perinatal Services BC (PSBC) continues to work with Healthy Authority (HA) Perinatal leads and the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) to develop clinical guidance for COVID-19 in pregnancy, birth, newborn and postpartum
- The provincial guidance is endorsed by BCCDC and PSBC and recommended for HA guidance and standardization based on best available evidence
- The guidance is linked through the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website: [BCCDC COVID-19 in Pregnancy](#)

Newborns Guidance Documents – new:

1. [Guideline for the management of the healthy newborn born to a pregnant mother/individual who is a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19](#)
 - This guidance includes postpartum care procedures, feeding procedures, discharge information and symptoms to watch for in newborn at home.
2. [Neonatal resuscitation guideline at time of delivery for the newborn born to mother/individual who is a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19](#)
 - This guidance includes general principles, Personal Protective Equipment procedures and the protocol and procedures for the treatment of a newborn who is unwell or requires additional care.
3. [Guidance for the management of the neonate in the NICU, nursery or pediatric unit that is a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19](#)

- This guidance includes information on admission requirements, care management, respiratory support, intra-hospital transfers, feeding, patient and family engagement and discharge considerations of a newborn with a status of suspect, confirmed case or close contact of COVID-19.
4. [Guideline for lactation for women/individuals who are confirmed or suspect cases of COVID-19](#)
 - This guidance includes lactation information for healthy mothers and infants; postpartum mothers who are a confirmed or suspect case of COVID-19 in home, community setting or hospital; and mothers who are temporarily separated from their newborn. The guidance also includes information on pasteurized donor human milk and informal milk sharing.
 5. [Breastfeeding and COVID-19 infographic](#)
 - This graphic highlights the promotion of breastfeeding and skin-to-skin.

General Guidance Documents – updated:

1. [General guidelines for community providers in B.C.](#) - Pregnant Women with COVID-19+ or PUI (person under investigation) General Guidelines for Community Providers in BC
 - Updated template – consistency for all BCCDC guidelines
 - Addition of site applicability, general information, definitions and PPE links – imbedded within all guidance documents for consistency
 - Updated algorithm – inclusive of 3rd trimester screening for symptoms and test for all who screen positive (new recommendation)
2. [General guidelines for admission and hospital treatment](#) - Pregnant Women with COVID-19+ or PUI General Guidelines for Admission and Hospital Treatment
 - Algorithm diagrams have been removed – text only
 - Self-isolation parameters clarified (i.e. COVID-19 positive test; negative test or not tested)
 - Antepartum fetal surveillance and fetal ultrasound assessment for growth and anatomy detail
 - Newborns should be bathed as soon as reasonably possible
 - Clarity on timing of testing for the newborn and isolation parameters (mother and newborn)
 - Newborn screening is considered an essential service
 - Newborn feeding section added

Recommendations:

1. Clinical teams and health care providers to review the new and updated content and apply to local context for facility/community
2. Attend one of the upcoming NH COVID-10 in pregnancy, birth and postpartum Webinars to review the guidance and updates (April 28 and May 12)

For more information, please contact:

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