

	<b>Name of Activity:</b> Infant Feeding, including Breastfeeding and Expressed Breast Milk, when Mother Positive, Under Investigation, or Symptomatic for COVID-19		
	<b>Role Performing Activity:</b>		
<h1>STANDARD WORK</h1>	<b>Location:</b> All SHA facilities	<b>Department:</b> SHA Maternal & Children's Provincial Programs	
	<b>Document Owner:</b> Tanya Anderson, Director, Maternal & Children's Provincial Programs		<b>Region/Organization where this Work Standard originated:</b>
	<b>Date Prepared:</b> March 15, 2020	<b>Last Revision:</b> March 19, 2020	<b>Date Approved:</b> March 19, 2020

**Standard Work Summary:**

Task Sequence (Order in which tasks occur)	Task Definition (Brief summary of task )	Task Cycle Time (Define unit of measure - seconds, minutes, etc.)
1.	Infant feeding recommendations, including recommendations for breastfeeding and feeding expressed breast milk (EBM), are based on what is currently known about COVID-19, and what we know about breastfeeding during other viral respiratory infections.	
2.	<p>In limited case series reported to date, no evidence of virus (viral DNA) has been found in the breast milk of women with COVID-19.</p> <p>Similar studies conducted regarding another coronavirus – Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) - also indicate that the SARS virus was not detectable in breast milk of women infected with SARS.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of note, antibodies towards SARS were found in at least one breast milk sample. The potential benefits and/or concerns regarding antibody transmission via breast milk are unclear.</li> </ul> <p>There are rare exceptions when breastfeeding or feeding EBM is not recommended. Breastfeeding, or feeding EBM, is recommended for women with respiratory symptoms/illnesses, such as the common cold.</p>	
3.	The management of infant feeding in the postpartum period should be guided by a patient-centred discussion about the available evidence and its limitations.	

<b>Task Sequence</b> (Order in which tasks occur)	<b>Task Definition</b> (Brief summary of task )	<b>Task Cycle Time</b> (Define unit of measure - seconds, minutes, etc.)
4.	Women with confirmed COVID-19 infection, under investigation for, or symptomatic of COVID-19 infection, may choose to breastfeed or feed with EBM.	
5.	There is concern that a woman infected with COVID-19 could transmit the virus through respiratory droplets during the period of infant feeding including during breastfeeding and feeding EBM or infant formula.	
6.	All women who are positive, under investigation for, or symptomatic of COVID-19 are directed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wash hands/use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before touching their infant when feeding at the breast or bottle feeding (e.g. EBM or infant formula).</li> <li>• Wear a face mask when feeding their infant.</li> <li>• If using a breast pump, wash hands/use alcohol-based hand sanitizer before touching any breast pump or bottle parts               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If possible, a dedicated breast pump should be provided.</li> <li>• After each pumping session, all parts that come into contact with breast milk should be thoroughly washed and the entire pump should be appropriately disinfected per the manufacturer's instructions.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
7.	If the infant is receiving EBM or infant formula, consideration should be provided for having an individual who is not positive, under investigation for, or symptomatic of COVID-19 infection feed the infant. This is to reduce the risk of virus transmission via respiratory droplets.	
8.	Due to the potential risk of COVID-19 transmission via contamination of the container storing the EBM: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Health care staff receiving the container of EBM must clean the outside of the EBM container with a food safe hospital grade disinfectant.</li> <li>• EBM containers are to be labeled with patient identification as per unit policy.</li> </ul>	
9.	During any temporary separation, mothers who intend to breastfeed should be encouraged to express their breast milk to establish and maintain their milk supply.	

## References

American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. (March 13, 2020). Practice advisory: Novel Coronavirus 2019 (COVID-19). Retrieved March 15, 2020 from <https://www.acog.org/Clinical-Guidance-and-Publications/Practice-Advisories/Practice-Advisory-Novel-Coronavirus2019?IsMobileSet=false>

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