

## 3.25 Infection Control for Emerging Infectious Diseases (EIDs) in Labor and Delivery and Nurseries

Purpose To prevent pregnant patients and their newborns from acquiring an EID in the hospital.

Audience Obstetricians, obstetrical nurses, neonatologists, neonatal nurses and anesthesiologists.

Policy Statements **I. All obstetrical patients admitted to the hospital will be screened for the EID prior to entering the hospital. Personnel who screen for an EID will wear goggles, gown, gloves and an N-95 mask for SARS or H5N1 (avian) influenza. Personnel screening for swine influenza will wear a face shield or face mask and goggles. (See Policies 3.27 and 3.28)**

- A. Only two persons may accompany an obstetrical patient to the second floor of the Towers. No children who are 12 years old or younger may enter the hospital.
- B. Screening will take place in the lobbies of the John Sealy Towers Emergency Department, and the University Hospital Clinics (UHC). (See Policy 3.27 Screening for an Emerging Infectious Disease (EID) at the Portals of Entry for UTMB Hospitals, Emergency Department and the University Hospital Clinics).
- C. A case of swine influenza is defined as follows:
  1. Subjective fever and
  2.  $\geq 2$  of the following symptoms
    - a. Cough
    - b. Sore throat
    - c. Runny / stuffy nose
  3. Each person being screened will be asked if they have fever or feel like they have fever, cough, sore throat or runny or stuffy nose.
- D. Patients who screen negative for swine influenza may enter Labor and Delivery (2A-B) as a routine admission.
- E. Patients who screen positive for swine influenza will don a surgical mask and apply an alcohol hand rub.
- F. Patients being admitted to Labor and Delivery (L & D) may be accompanied only by a spouse or significant other and one other adult.

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- G. If the patient must wait for a bed in L & D, they will be escorted to a designated room or area while awaiting admission. If they screened positive for swine influenza, they must continue to wear their mask until they arrive in their isolation room in L & D.
- II. All Barrier Precautions (ABPs) for isolation of Obstetrical Patients with confirmed, probable or suspected swine influenza
- A. Patients with suspected swine influenza will be admitted to their room on ABP and an ABP sign posted on the door frame. The door should be kept closed except for entry or exit.
- B. All HCWs who enter the room will wear goggles, gown, gloves and an N-95 mask for SARS or avian influenza or respiratory protection as defined in Policy 3.28 for swine influenza.**
- C. Prior to leaving the room, the HCW will remove gloves, goggles, and gown and discard them in the room. The HCW will leave the room, perform hand hygiene (handwashing or apply an alcohol hand rub), carefully remove the mask, discard the mask in a trash can and then perform hand hygiene again.
- D. Patients who meet the clinical case definition for swine influenza [influenza-like illness (ILI)] (unless they have a negative definitive test for swine influenza, e.g. a negative PCR or culture) should wear a surgical mask (if tolerated) throughout labor and delivery to protect their newborns and decrease the exposure of the HCWs. Newborns should not be placed on the chest of mothers with symptoms of swine influenza.
- E. All HCWs who enter the labor and delivery rooms where patients with an ILI are located must wear goggles, gown, gloves and an N-95 mask for SARS or avian influenza or respiratory protection as defined in Policy 3.28 for swine influenza.**
- F. Newborns whose mothers develop an ILI from 2 days before to 7 days after delivery will be placed on ABP in the newborn nursery or the ISCU.
1. Newborns who are on ABP because they were exposed to their mothers with an ILI at delivery may not be visited by their mothers until the following conditions are met.
    - a. The mother has received antiviral medications for 48 hours
    - b. Fever has fully resolved
    - c. She can control coughs and secretions.

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2. Before these conditions are met, the newborn should be cared for in the newborn nursery or ISCU isolation room by a member of the nursing staff or a member of the newborn's family who is well. Persons who provide care to isolated neonates must wear a gown, gloves, goggles and respiratory protection as defined in Policy 3.28 for swine influenza.
3. The mother should be encouraged to express her milk which can be fed to the newborn by the caregiver.
4. When the mother has met the above conditions for contact with her newborn, she should put on a surgical mask, change to a clean gown or clothing, and adhere to strict hand hygiene and cough etiquette when in contact with the infant.
5. The mother can then begin breast feeding.
6. The mother should continue these protective measures both in the hospital setting and at home for at least 7 days after onset of swine influenza.
7. When newborns must remain in the hospital for a prolonged period, they may be taken off of isolation when they are free of signs and symptoms of an ILI 7 days after birth.

### III. Visitation in Labor and Delivery and in the nurseries.

#### A. Labor and Delivery (L&D)

1. Visitation in L&D will be limited to two persons, the spouse or a significant other and one other adult.
2. All visitors will be screened for the EID (swine influenza, avian influenza or SARS) at the point of entry into the hospital.
3. Persons with fever or who feel like they have fever and two or more of the following symptoms must wear a surgical mask and apply an alcohol hand rub to come to the second floor.
  - a. Cough
  - b. Sore throat
  - c. Runny / stuffy nose
4. For patients on isolation for the EID, visitors must wear goggles, gown, gloves and a surgical mask for swine influenza or an N-95 mask for SARS or avian influenza. After the visitation, the nursing staff will assist visitors in the proper doffing of PPE.

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#### B. Newborn nurseries and the ISCU

1. Visitation will be limited to one person, the father or a significant other.
2. All visitors will be screened for the EID (swine influenza, avian influenza or SARS) at the point of entry into the hospital.
3. Persons with fever or who feel like they have fever and two or more of the following symptoms will not be permitted to come to the third floor.
  - a. Cough
  - b. Sore throat
  - c. Runny / stuffy nose
4. For patients on isolation for the EID, visitors must wear goggles, gown, gloves and a surgical mask for swine influenza or an N-95 mask for SARS or avian influenza. After the visitation, the nursing staff will assist visitors in the proper doffing of PPE.