

BACKGROUND

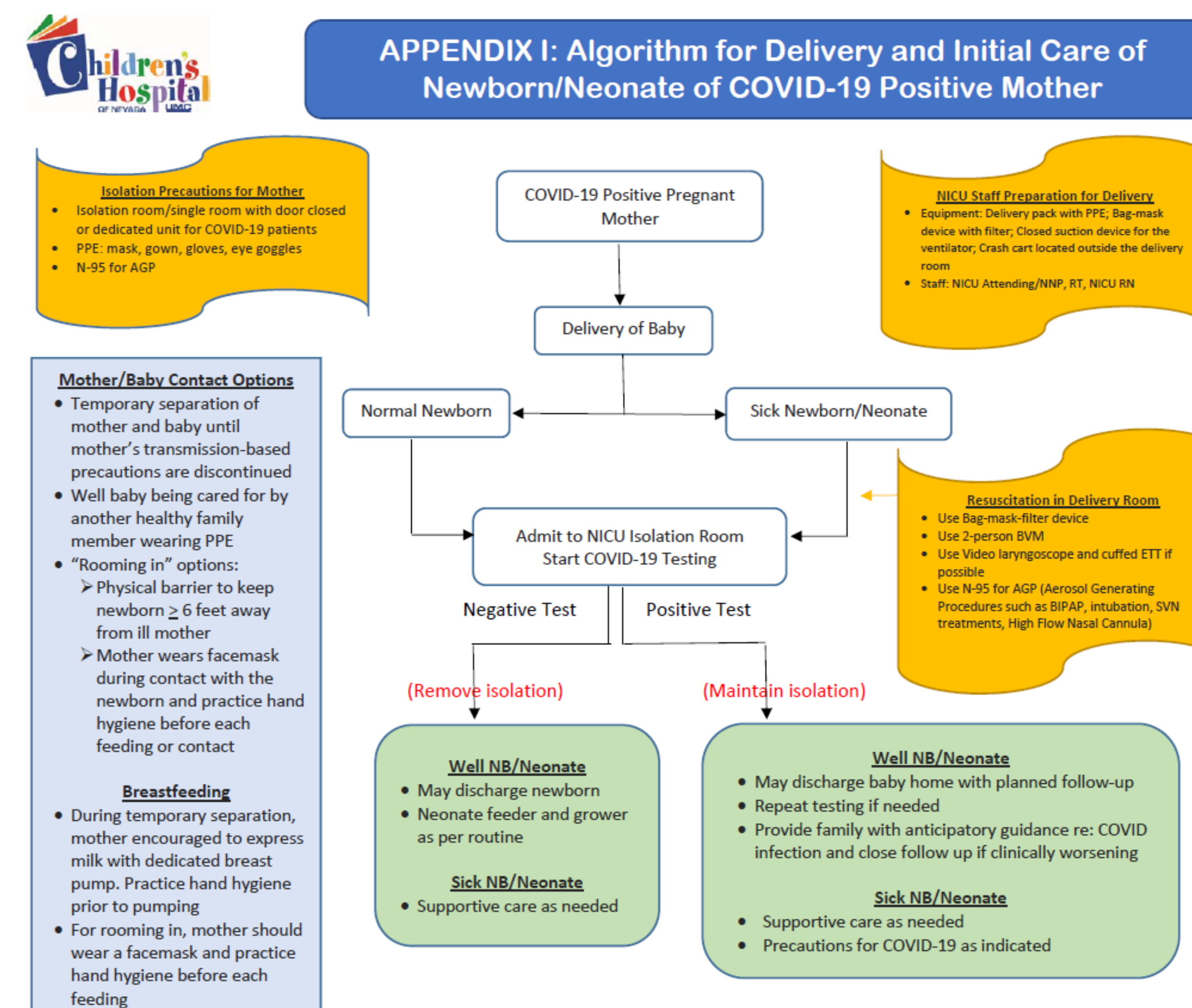
The Covid-19 Pandemic has impacted the world in unprecedented ways. Covid-19 has changed our practice and protocols in order to prevent the spread of disease. The Neonatal Intensive Care has changed practice in order to maintain the safety of the newborns born to COVID-19 positive mothers while ensuring parental bonding and continue to promote and support breastfeeding in a family with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

PURPOSE

Initiatives have been taken to ensure safe management for Neonates at risk for COVID-19. The safe management includes strict guidelines while maintaining parental bonding and promoting breastfeeding.

METHODS

Guidelines for the management considerations for neonates at risk for COVID-19 were developed. The evidence to date suggest that the risk of the newborn acquiring COVID-19 infection is low. A study by the University of San Francisco California suggest the incidence of a positive infant born to a positive COVID-19 mother was low at 1.1%. Of the 263 infants in the study only two infants were reported COVID-19 positive.



RESULTS

Unless neonate requires NICU admission, the ideal setting for care of healthy, term newborn while in the hospital is rooming in with the mother. American Academy of Pediatrics suggest neonate may room in with a COVID-19 positive mother as long as proper hygiene is practiced. This includes handwashing prior to contact with neonate and use of face mask. Mothers should maintain a reasonable distance from her infant when possible. While it is important to protect the neonate from COVID-19, breastfeeding protects infants from infection. Human milk has natural bioactive factors, antibodies and targeted immunologic mediators. Studies have suggested that milk may not act as a vehicle for mother to child transmission of COVID-19. Importantly anti-SARS-COV-2 antibodies have been detected in milk primarily IgA but also IgG.

CONCLUSIONS

- Important to establish COVID-19 guidelines for staff and parent education in order to prevent COVID-19 infection in neonates.
- Rooming in promotes family centered care and can allow the parent education about newborn care and infection control practices.
- By establishing guidelines for staff and parent education, it is safe for the infant to remain with mother thus encouraging bonding and providing the infant with benefits of breastfeeding.

REFERENCES

Available upon request (AAP, CDC, Illi.org).
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