



Improving the health of the people in our communities by  
providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time

## COVID-19 TESTING AT LABOR AND DELIVERY ADMISSION

Dear Patient:

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak has changed our lives in many ways. The virus spreads very easily, and many people are getting infected. Most people who get infected do fine, but some get very sick. We have elected to start testing all new mothers for COVID-19 to allow better counseling and guidance to families.

- When you arrive at the hospital, we will ask you screening questions. Have you had a fever, cough or shortness of breath? Have you had diarrhea or lost your sense of smell or taste? Have you been exposed to someone with COVID-19?
- When you arrive, we will send a test for COVID-19, which is a nose swab.
- If you have symptoms or a **POSITIVE** test, we will recommend that you and your newborn separate. This is based on recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Separation will lower the chance that your baby gets infected with COVID-19. You will be involved with this discussion and decision.
- If you decide not to separate from your newborn, all precautions should be taken to limit transmission of COVID-19. These include:
  - Washing your hands, especially before holding or feeding your baby
  - Your baby should sleep at least 6 feet away
  - You should wear a face mask when holding or feeding your baby
- If your test is **NEGATIVE**, no further testing is required, unless you show new symptoms during your hospital stay.
- We believe breastfeeding is healthy for moms and newborns. If breastfeeding is your preferred method of feeding, we will support you in feeding your newborn with breastmilk.

We believe that universal testing is the best way to keep you, your family and our community safe. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have.

Stay Healthy!  
The Birth Center at Sparrow Hospital  
Nursing and Medical Leadership Team