

**Alaska Native Medical Center  
Anchorage, Alaska  
Infection Control Guidelines**

**Prevention of Influenza Transmission in the NICU**

**PURPOSE:**

This document explains the steps to be used to prevent the transmission of influenza to the newborn from the mother or other ill persons.

**SCOPE:**

All organizational components of the Alaska Native Medical Center (ANMC) accredited campus defined as its staff, students, interns, volunteers and contractors.

**PROCEDURE:**

1. Mothers with suspected or confirmed influenza should be separated from their baby until:
  - a. The mother has received antiviral treatment for >48 hours
  - b. The mother is afebrile without antipyretics for >24hrs, and
  - c. The mother is able to cover her cough and respiratory secretions.
  
2. Mothers who have recovered from influenza illness and meet criteria a – c may visit their child while wearing a surgical mask for 7 days from start of illness.
  
3. Newborns of mothers with influenza can be cared for by a non-ill person using standard precautions and be closely observed for signs of infection.
  
4. Newborns of mothers with influenza that develops symptoms of influenza should be placed in droplet precautions.
  
5. Neonatal Intensive Care Unit:
  - d. Infants in the NICU born to mothers who have influenza will be spatially separated from other NICU babies by at least 6 feet and temporary barriers/curtains will be used.
  - e. Mothers who have met criteria a – c and well visitors are allowed wearing a surgical mask and performing hand hygiene.
  
6. Influenza vaccination for all family and visitors will be encouraged by staff.