Children's Hospital at Dartmouth-Hitchcock

Intensive Care Nursery

One Medical Center Drive
Lebanon, New Hampshire 03756
603 650- 7256

March 16, 2020

Dear ICN Parents and Families,

As you may know, there has been much discussion about the COVID-19 virus (a type of coronavirus) in the news recently. We want to let you know of important changes to our family presence and visitor policy with the safety of our patients in mind.

It is important to note that the ICN continues to be open and safe for care. Currently, there are no staff, patients or family members in the ICN who we believe are a risk of spreading COVID-19. The ICN team continues to work with Dartmouth-Hitchcock infection experts and statewide public health professionals to make sure that we are following the most up-to-date recommendations.

These are the steps we are taking to decrease the chance that babies in the ICN are exposed to COVID-19:

1) We will continue to ask screening questions of all who enter the ICN. These questions help us learn of any increased risk of infectious illnesses including COVID-19. As always, we will not allow entry to the ICN for anyone who may be a risk based on their answers to these questions.

2) During this time, we welcome ONLY parents to the ICN. Note: If you are a single parent you may have an adult "partner in care" designated. Other family members/friends are not able to use the ICN Family Lounge at this time.

3) Out of an abundance of caution, children are not able to come into the ICN; they may not wait in the ICN Family Lounge at this time either.

These policy changes are intended to help protect all babies in the ICN. Please help us follow these new restrictions until we are able to safely return to our standard policies.

We recognize the importance of your role as a healing partner for your baby here in the ICN. Your presence is important and we want you to be here with your baby.

Thank you for your understanding and patience during this challenging situation.

As always, we are available to help answer any questions or address any concerns you may have. We have attached some information from the CDC that you might find helpful as well.

Joanna Celenza
ICN Family Support Specialist

James Gray MD
ICN Medical Director

Tammy Lambert RN
ICN Nurse Manager

Dorothy Mullaney APRN
Director, Neonatal Associate Providers