

TO: Vermont Health Care Providers and Health Care Facilities
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New Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics Regarding Infants Born to Mothers with Suspected or Confirmed COVID-19

BACKGROUND

Limited published data exist to guide the care of infants born to women infected with the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2 with resultant COVID-19 disease. Subject matter experts from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) reviewed the available medical literature. The available data suggest that in utero and perinatal transmission from infected mothers to their infants may occur. Children of all ages are susceptible to infection with SARS-CoV-2, with an inverse relationship between age and severity of disease (infants have the most severe disease).

The AAP issued a [report](#) on April 2, 2020 to provide key initial guidance regarding the management of infants born to SARS-CoV-2-infected mothers. This guidance may not be applicable in every clinical scenario, and individualized risk/benefit assessment and management of cases is anticipated. It is anticipated that this guidance will be revised as new information becomes available upon which to base recommendations.

Topics addressed in this new guidance include the following:

1. Personal protective equipment and isolation precautions
2. Delivery room management of neonates
3. Maternal and newborn separation
4. Newborn admission after maternal separation
5. Breastfeeding
6. Alternative well newborn care
7. Newborn viral testing
8. Newborn birth hospital discharge
9. Maternal visitation for infants requiring ongoing hospital care

If you have any questions, please contact the HAN Coordinator at 802-859-5900 or vthan@vermont.gov

HAN Message Type Definitions

Health Alert: Conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.

Health Advisory: Provides important information for a specific incident or situation may not require immediate action.

Health Update: Provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; unlikely to require immediate action.

Info Service Message: Provides general correspondence from VDH, which is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.