



November 23, 2016

Dear NICU Families,

Our goal is to provide the best family centered care for your baby and family. As a part of achieving this goal, we work to keep families up to date on any changes that are happening in our NICU.

We want to let you know about some changes that you will start to see beginning on November 28th. These changes are directly related to our efforts to reduce infection risk. Parents are great partners in such efforts and we're writing to ask for your help in these efforts to keep your baby and all of our NICU babies infection free. Some of the new things we will be doing include:

1. Placing a STOP sign on the door when an important procedure is happening (attached).
2. All staff and families will do an initial hand washing to the elbows with a scrub brush or soap and water every day.
3. Hanging some signs in patient rooms to remind everyone about hand hygiene (clean hands) efforts. (attached)
4. Wipes are available at the NICU front desk and in your baby's room to clean your cell phone.

We thank you for your help and encourage you to ask any questions you might have to your baby's doctor or nurse.

Sincerely,

The NICU Infection Prevention Team  
Terri Gorman & Michael Prendergast, NICU Medical Directors  
Marianne Cummings, NICU Nursing Director

**Q: How long will the sign be on the door and can I see my baby during that time?**

**A:** The sign may be up for as little as 30 minutes to change the baby's IV lines and as long as 2 hours during a sterile procedure. We ask that parents not stay in the room so that the nurses and physicians can keep the sterile environment they have created to prevent infection.

**Q: What is a scrub brush and where should I wash my hands?**

**A:** We recommend washing your hands at the front desk before entering the NICU or hand washing in the room where your nurse will be able to assist you. Scrub brushes are located in your baby's room or at the sink near the front desk of the NICU. This helps us do good hand washing which will reduce the chances of your baby getting an infection.

**Q: What can I do to prevent my baby from getting sick?**

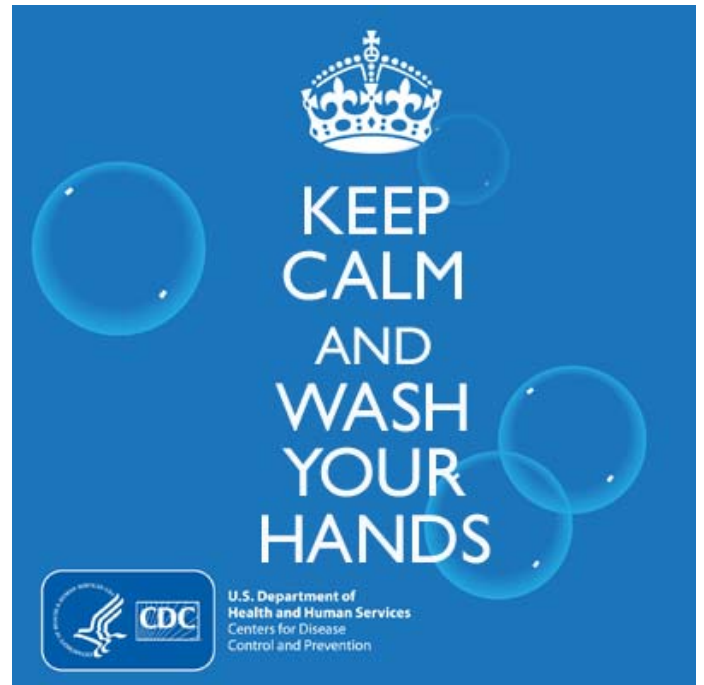
**A:** Wash your hands before and after picking up your baby, changing a diaper or feeding your baby. If you are sick, please make sure to use your best judgement about visiting your baby and follow recommendations made by your baby's team. Remember to do hand hygiene if you wipe your eyes or blow your nose. Every time a baby is handled or touched there is a slightly increased risk of exposure to bacteria that can cause infection.

**Q: What are my baby's nurse and doctor doing to prevent my baby from getting sick?**

**A:** They are following the same guidelines we mention here and also are washing their hands between caring for each new baby. In addition, they are following the guidelines set up to ensure a clean and sterile environment when doing procedures on any baby.



**STERILE PROCEDURE  
IN PROGRESS**



**Happy birthday to you  
Your hands are a zoo  
If you hum this while you wash them  
They'll be cleaner times two**



The CDC says that **keeping your hands clean** is one of the most effective things you can do to prevent the spread of bacteria in your baby