

Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the Neonatal Unit CUMH
18th March 2020

Dear Parents,

We understand that this is an incredibly anxious time for everyone, especially for you as we care for your baby in our Neonatal Unit against the background of an evolving COVID-19 infection outbreak nationally and internationally. Please be assured that in all of our measures being considered and implemented, we place the health and wellbeing of your baby and all our vulnerable newborn baby population at the centre of all we do.

For the wellbeing and safety of your baby and the key healthcare providers in the Neonatal Unit to ensure we maintain this Critical Care service over the coming weeks, we regret that the following measures must be taken:

- Visiting restriction to the Neonatal Unit **limited to mothers** of inpatient babies in Neonatal Unit only.
- We ask that any mother with respiratory symptoms (cough/shortness of breath/fever) or if a **household contact** of COVID-19 self-isolate at home and not visit but rather discuss and update on their baby's condition by telephone.
- Acknowledging the distances and disruption to parents that will result to fully comply with required **social distancing**, we ask that all mothers of babies in the Neonatal Unit after their discharge from hospital no longer stay in Brú Columbanus but rather travel to and from their homes to visit their baby.

We appreciate that these are difficult times for you. We will endeavour to keep you and all our parents as up to date as possible on their baby's condition at all times. Many thanks for your cooperation with these measures as we work with you to protect and care for your baby at these most challenging times.

Sincerely,



Dr Brendan Murphy
Lead Consultant Neonatologist
Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate