

Dear Parent,

We wish to thank each and every one of you for your collaboration with us in relation to the restrictions we put in place around access to the Neonatal Unit at Cork University Maternity Hospital over the past two months. Together, we have kept Covid-19 away from your baby, all the other babies and the entire healthcare team in our Neonatal Unit – we are immensely grateful for your assistance in keeping everyone safe and well.

In parallel with the planned phased reopening of the country nationally over the coming months, we seek your continued partnership and support as we facilitate all parents be with their infants in the Neonatal Unit. In this together, we wish to maintain optimised reduced footfall and safe social distancing within CUMH to continue to keep all babies, parents and staff safe and well.

- When your baby is admitted to the Neonatal Unit, we ask that your attendances to the Neonatal Unit are by one parent at any given time. We ask you to coordinate your individual attendances accordingly amongst yourselves. We will issue a single shared Parent Pass between parents of every baby admitted to the Neonatal Unit and ask that this be presented at the Health Screening Tent on arrival to CUMH to access the hospital.
- As in any Critical Care environment, at times some of you may be asked to leave depending on the level of activity/patient acuity/patient numbers/ staff numbers/ parent numbers present in order that safe social distancing can be maintained. We will endeavour at all times to treat each and every one of you equally and fairly with clear and transparent communication if the numbers present are preventing safe social distancing and you are being requested to leave earlier than you had planned.
- We continue to ask that any parent 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 your baby's condition by telephone. The Virtual Visiting Application vCreate will also continue to provide you with offsite access to images and updates on your baby's condition.

As always, please be assured that in all of these measures, we place the health and wellbeing of your baby and all our vulnerable newborn baby population at the centre of all we do. Many thanks for your partnership, support and cooperation as we work with you to protect and care for your baby during these challenging times.

Sincerely,



Brendan Murphy

Clinical Lead-Neonatology, Ireland South Women & Infants Directorate
Senior Clinical Lecturer, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, UCC