

Flowchart for Newborn Life Support 1

Delivery from a COVID-19 negative mother, or an asymptomatic mother not suspected to have COVID-19

The purpose of this flowchart is to provide practical, pragmatic advice to anyone providing assessment, stabilisation or resuscitation of newborn babies in the UK during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Newborn life support is very different from adult resuscitation and this guidance is only applicable to newborn babies. It aims to provide evidence based advice where possible (accepting the evidence base is weak) and tries to avoid anxiety based medicine where practical (accepting that clinician safety is vital and the perception of safety is very important).

This flowchart is for delivery from a mother who is COVID-19 negative or asymptomatic and not suspected to have COVID-19. Please visit resus.org.uk for guidance on delivery from a mother with confirmed or suspected COVID-19, as well as other resources.

PPE Terminology

FRSM fluid resistant surgical maskFRDG fluid resistant disposable gownPPE personal protective equipmentAGP aerosol generating procedure

FFP mask filtering face-piece respirator (e.g. FFP3, N95 or equivalent)



Flowchart 1: Delivery from COVID-19 negative mother, or asymptomatic mother not suspected to have COVID-19

Standard reasons for neonatal team attendance Neonatal team wear plastic apron, gloves, fluid-resistant surgical mask and eye protection Delayed cord clamping should be considered If baby is well at birth: If baby requires assessment / stabilisation / no neonatal team resuscitation pass to the neonatal team who involvement can be in the same room. Assessment & stabilisation / resuscitation as per NLS 2021 algorithm Aerosol generating procedures can safely be done in a fluid resistant surgical mask, plastic apron, gloves and eye protection If NNU admission not If NNU admission needed: transfer to needed: return baby to NNU following usual local protocols & mother for skin-to-skin safe doffing procedures and breastfeeding