Breastfeeding in the Era of COVID-19

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LET US NOT FORGET

Breastmilk has more of the good things babies need

Breastmilk

Antibodies
Hormones
Anti-Viruses
Anti-Allergies
Anti-Parasites
Growth Factors

Enzymes
Minerals
Vitamins
Fat
DHA/ARA
Carbohydrates
Protein
Water

Formula

Minerals
Vitamins
Fat
DHA/ARA
Carbohydrates
Protein
Water

Rutgers NJ Project ECHO
There are rare exceptions when breastfeeding or feeding expressed breast milk is not recommended.

Whether and how to start or continue Breastfeeding should be determined by the mother in coordination with her family/support network and health care practitioners.

“Shared Decision Making”
WHAT WE KNOW:
FROM OTHER RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES

• Tuberculosis
• Influenza
• SARS
• MERS
Currently the primary concern is not whether the virus can be transmitted through breastmilk but rather whether an infected mother can transmit the virus through respiratory droplets during the period of breastfeeding.
The clinical condition of the mother and the infant
SARC-CoV-2 testing results of the mother (confirmed versus suspected)
Desire to feed at the breast
Individual facilities capacity to accommodate separation or co-location
The ability to maintain separation upon discharge
Other risks and benefits of temporary separation of a mother and her infant
Many studies looking at “experimental” treatments exclude pregnant women and breastfeeding women but then we will have no real data on which to base future recommendations.
REFERENCES


- www.who.int/news-room/q-a-detail/q-a-oncovid-19-pregnancy-childbirth-and-breastfeeding


- www.bfmed.org
Thank you!

Questions & Discussion