

# Protecting your newborn baby from infection in the neonatal special care baby unit

Neonatal unit

Produced: July 2023

Review: July 2026

Information for Parents

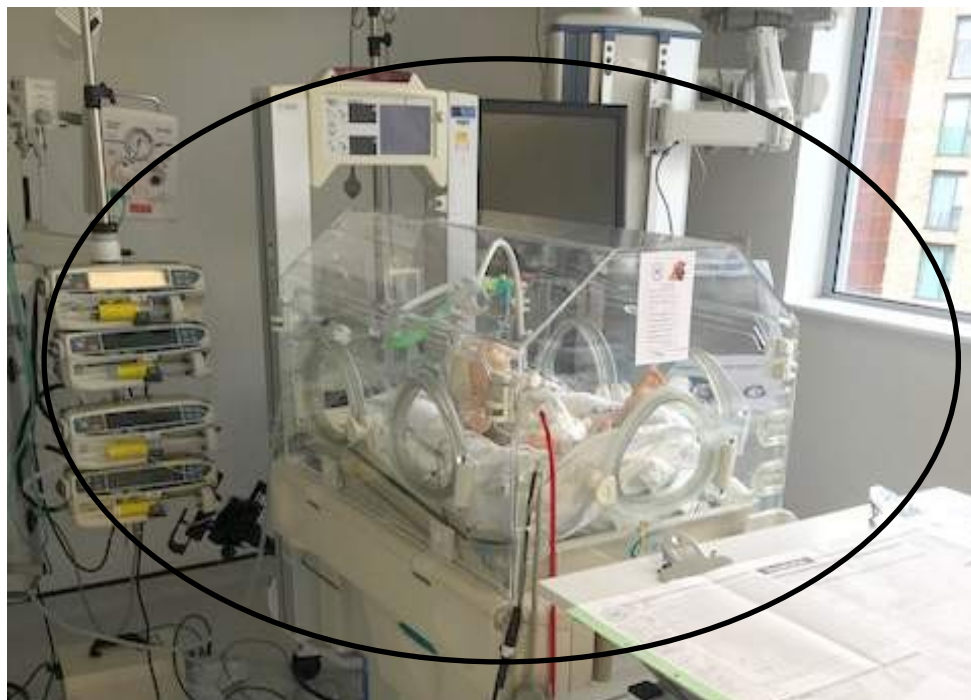
Leaflet number: 1428 Version: 1

## Information leaflet from infection prevention

### The baby's circle of protection

The circle shows the area which is called, 'the baby's circle of protection'. We all can help protect babies from infection when they are still in the neonatal special care baby unit.

Parents have an important role in the care of their babies. This is through good habits that boost bonding and attachment.



**Health information and support is available at [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)  
or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

Visit [www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk](http://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk) for maps and information about visiting Leicester's Hospitals  
To give feedback about this information sheet, contact [InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:InformationForPatients@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)

## What is 'baby's circle of protection'

The circle is an invisible barrier around individual babies within a safe and clean area. This will help stop infections and protect your baby. Your baby's circle will have proper equipment your baby needs, such as the incubator and the paperwork relating to your baby's care and treatment.

## What can you as a parent do to help to protect your baby within the baby's circle of protection?

- Take off all outer clothes such as coats and hang in the reception area on the hooks provided before entering the unit.
- Please wash your hands with soap and water as soon as you enter the clinical area. Hand sanitizer will also be available when you enter your baby's circle.
- If you come in contact with your child, kindly roll up your sleeves and remove any clothes that go below the elbows.
- Make sure your visitors wash their hands with soap and water and follow the bare below the elbow rules.
- Please do not be afraid to challenge any member of staff on cleaning their hands.
- Skin to skin contact is needed to support attachment and bonding with your baby.
- Please speak to a staff member if you or a family member feels sick, like having diarrhoea and throwing up, a cough or cold, a fever, or chicken pox. They can help you with more details about visiting the unit to protect your baby.



**BARE BELOW ELBOWS**



## Why is it so important to protect your baby whilst within ‘the baby’s circle’?

Babies who are born early (premature) or need to be admitted to a newborn (neonatal) unit due to illness may be more at risk of infection.

Hand hygiene (cleaning your hands) before entering ‘the baby’s circle’ is key to protect your baby. Cleaning hands is the most effective way to prevent infection.

On admission to the neonatal unit, babies will have swabs taken to find any unknown infections. These swabs are repeated once a week while in the unit.

As parents, you will be getting regular reports from the medical and nursing staff on each step of your "baby's care."



**Hand hygiene is the single most important factor in preventing infection.**



**Contact details:**

Infection preventions team—0116 258 5448

**'Neonatal Unit'**

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔  
على هذه المعلومات بلغةٍ أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل  
જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਿਸੇ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦਿੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।  
Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

If you would like this information in another language or format such as EasyRead or Braille, please telephone 0116 250 2959 or email [equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk](mailto:equality@uhl-tr.nhs.uk)