# Preventing infection in the Neonatal Units

Babies are vulnerable to infections from bacteria and viruses. We are committed to protecting your baby and all the babies in our Neonatal Units from infections.

To do this we take extra precautions as necessary. This might include:

- Caring for your baby in a single room or incubator.
- Staff wearing gowns, gloves, and/or masks.
- Taking a test to check if your baby is carrying a specific bacteria or virus.

These steps are very normal in the neonatal environment as some bacteria are resistant to common antibiotics and some viruses can also cause serious illness.

Not all babies who carry germs will become sick, but we want to ensure certain bacteria and viruses do not spread from one baby to another. Our Infection Prevention team works closely with Neonatal Unit staff to manage these situations very carefully.
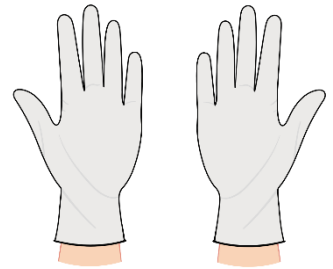
How can you help?

You can help by:

▪ Washing your hands with soap and water or using alcohol hand gel when entering and leaving the nursery, before and after touching your baby, and after touching equipment.
- Staying home if you are feeling unwell. Visitors with respiratory symptoms should only attend after approval.
- Following staff instructions about protective clothing.

We want to reassure you that these organisms will not affect your baby's health at home. There are no special precautions needed for family members or daily activities.

If you have any questions, please ask to speak with the nursing or medical staff.

Thank you for helping us keep all babies in the Neonatal Units safe.

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for people with disability.