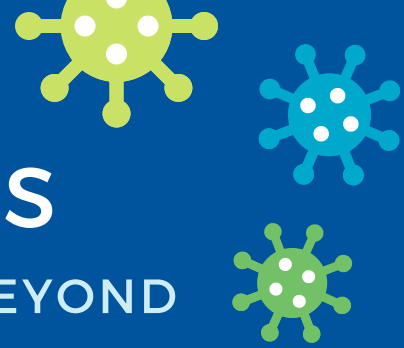


PARENTS ARE ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS

DURING COVID-19 ... AND BEYOND



FAMILY-CENTERED CARE

Advocates that families be respected as essential members of the care team.

- We believe parents and providers are allies in care
- We recognize and respect families' priorities, values, cultures, and beliefs.
- We encourage shared-decision making and partnership in care planning.

THE PARENT-INFANT DYAD

Parental involvement in the early days and months of life supports:

- healthy cognitive development.
- secure attachment.
- self-regulation, stability, and resiliency.



FAMILY PRESENCE

Family presence during infant hospitalization promotes:

- parental attachment.
- parental well-being.
- continuity of care.



We affirm the rights of parents to provide essential care for their infant during hospitalization, given the life-long importance of parent-infant attachment.

SUPPORTING PARENTS AS ESSENTIAL CAREGIVERS

Parental caregiving during hospitalization is essential care.

We encourage providers to value parental presence in the following ways:

- Promote policies and practices that prioritize parental presence and caregiving.
- Invite parent participation and input when revising policies that may limit parental presence.
- Set clear expectations. Openly and honestly communicate with families about shared responsibilities that are part of being an "essential caregiver."



- awhonn.org
- nann.org
- nationalperinatal.org