

assessed intrauterine vertical transmission of COVID-19 infection in nine infants born to infected mothers, found that none of the infants tested positive for the virus.⁴⁵ Likewise, there was no evidence of intrauterine infection caused by vertical transmission in the SARS and MERS epidemics.⁴³

The CDC asserts that infants born to mothers with confirmed COVID-19 are considered persons under investigation (PUI) and should be temporarily separated from the mother and isolated.⁴⁶

7.1 Breastfeeding and infant care

The data available to date is limited and cannot confirm whether or not COVID-19 can be transmitted through breast milk.⁴⁰ Assessing the presence of COVID-19 in breast milk samples from six patients showed negative result.⁴⁵ The CDC points out that in case of a confirmed or suspected COVID-19 infection, the decision of whether or how to start or continue breastfeeding should be made by the mother in collaboration with the family and healthcare practitioners.⁴⁷ Careful precautions need to be taken by the mother to prevent transmitting the disease to her infant through respiratory droplets during breastfeeding. This includes wearing a facemask and practicing hand