

# Feeding the small and sick newborn in the COVID-19 pandemic



University of Nairobi



## An initiative of ETAT+ Trainers

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# Outline



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**Dr. Joy Odhiambo**  
Ten steps to successful  
breastfeeding



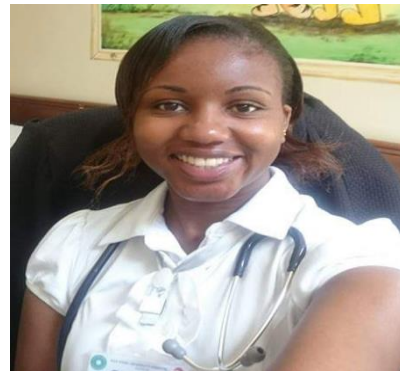
**Dr. Muthoni Ogola**  
Facilitator



**Edith Gicheha**  
Breastmilk  
Expression and  
Usage



**Dr. Rachael  
Kanguha  
(Host)**  
Introduction



**Dr. Betty Mburu**  
Breastmilk Storage

# Outline



**Dr. Hildy  
Nvonako**  
Trophic feeds



**Dr. Fareen Musa**  
Breastfeeding in  
special  
groups



**Dr. MaryAnne Murugami.**  
Rapid versus slow feeding  
and gastric residuals

# Introduction

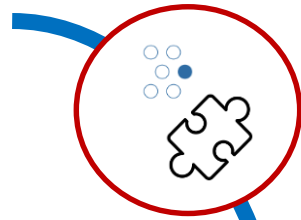


# Appropriate breastfeeding practices

- Initiating breastfeeding immediately ( or within the first 5 minutes)
- Exclusive breastfeeding until 6 months age
- Continued breastfeeding to at least up-to 2 years of age
- Breastfeeding on demand, day and night

*Suboptimal breastfeeding practices contribute to 11.6% of mortality in the under 5's globally*

# Topics covered last week



Composition of breastmilk



Benefits of breastfeeding



Milk production, let down reflex and hormones involved



Techniques of breastfeeding

# BFHI and 10 steps of successful breastfeeding

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## Box 1. Ten Steps to Successful Breastfeeding (revised 2018)

### Critical management procedures

1.
  - a. Comply fully with the *International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes* and relevant World Health Assembly resolutions.
  - b. Have a written infant feeding policy that is routinely communicated to staff and parents.
  - c. Establish ongoing monitoring and data-management systems.
2. Ensure that staff have sufficient knowledge, competence and skills to support breastfeeding.

### Key clinical practices

3. Discuss the importance and management of breastfeeding with pregnant women and their families.
4. Facilitate immediate and uninterrupted skin-to-skin contact and support mothers to initiate breastfeeding as soon as possible after birth.
5. Support mothers to initiate and maintain breastfeeding and manage common difficulties.
6. Do not provide breastfed newborns any food or fluids other than breast milk, unless medically indicated.
7. Enable mothers and their infants to remain together and to practise rooming-in 24 hours a day.
8. Support mothers to recognize and respond to their infants' cues for feeding.
9. Counsel mothers on the use and risks of feeding bottles, teats and pacifiers.
10. Coordinate discharge so that parents and their infants have timely access to ongoing support and care.



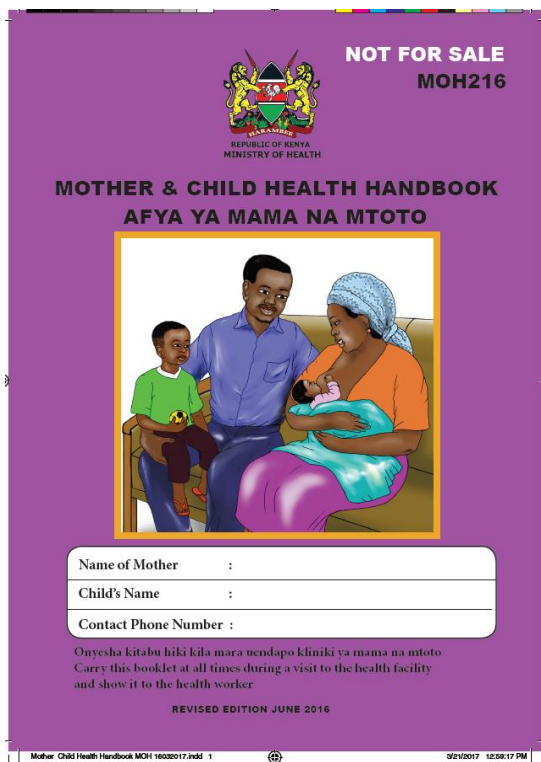
# Key clinical practices

**STEP 3**  
Discuss the importance and management of breastfeeding with pregnant women and their families

## Antenatal discussion should:

- Give information on benefits of breastfeeding
- Educate about breastfeeding technique
- Physical examination of the breast and check for inverted nipple

# STEP 3: Focus on antenatal education



Emphasis on breastfeeding education at ANC

## ANTENATAL PROFILE

Hb

Blood Group

Rhesus

Serology (VDRL/RPR)

TB Screening as per the intensive case finding tool.

IPT Isoniazid Date Given  Next Visit

HIV:

Reactive

Non Reactive

Not tested

Urinalysis

Couple HIV Counseling and testing done Yes  No

If No, Counsel and test

## INFANT FEEDING

Infant feeding Counseling done Yes  No

Counseling on exclusive breastfeeding done Yes  No

NOT FOR SALE

Page 7 of 44

## Step 4

“Facilitate immediate and uninterrupted skin to skin contact and support mothers to initiate breastfeeding as soon as possible after birth.”

## Benefits

- ❖ Increased breastfeeding duration
- ❖ Better cardiorespiratory stability
- ❖ Higher blood glucose
- ❖ Decrease in infant crying
- ❖ Maternal- infant bonding
- ❖ Thermoregulation



## Step 6

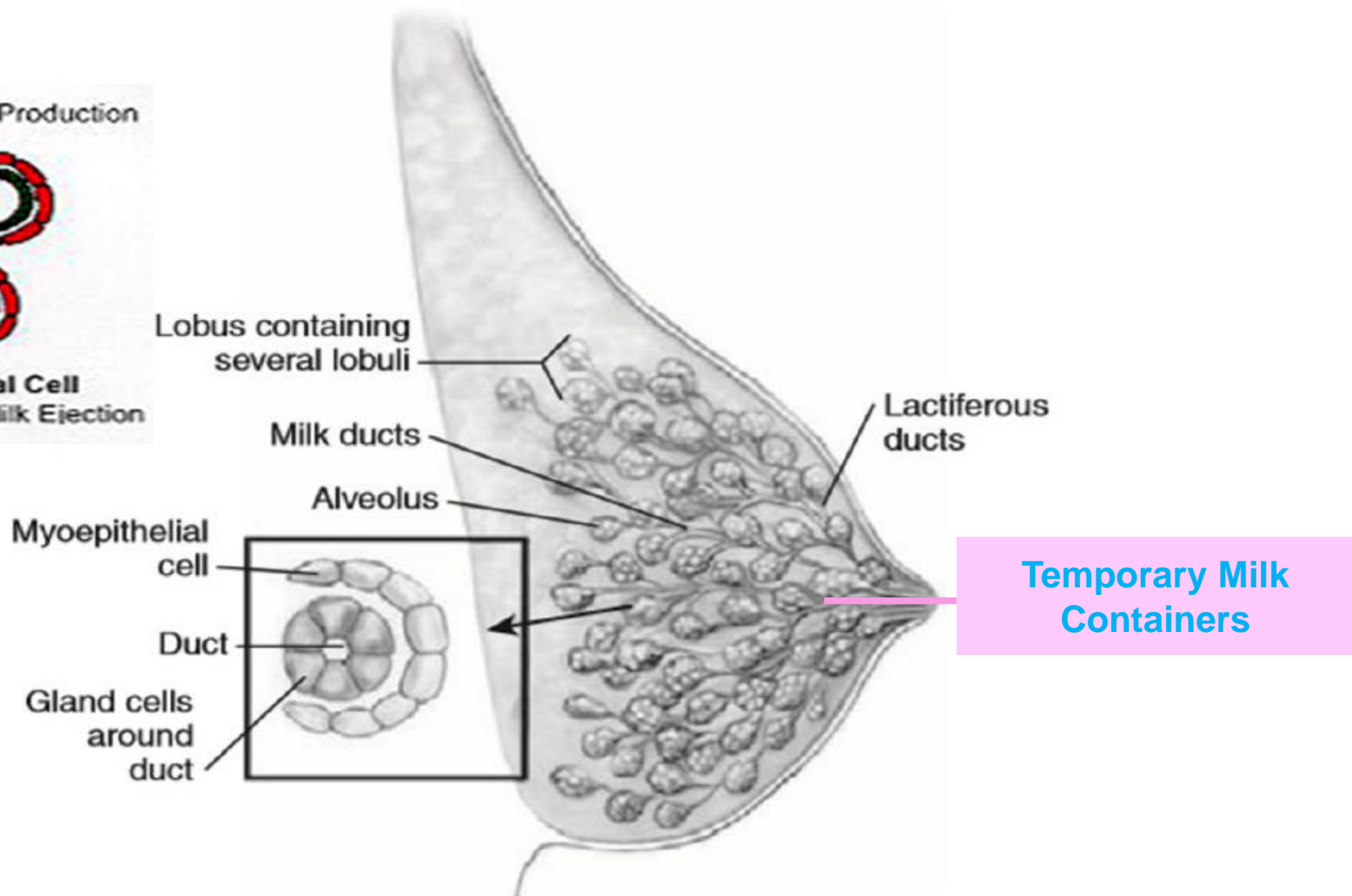
**Do not provide breastfed newborns any food or fluids other than breast milk unless medically indicated.**

**“ Prioritize breastfeeding > EBM>  
Donor human milk > formula”**

# Breastmilk Expression, Use and Storage



# The Lactating Breast



# Hand expression of breastmilk



- Push breast back towards the chest wall
- Press the thumb and the supporting fingers together and then release.
- Repeat this step until breast is empty





# Cup Feeding Technique

1. Observe for hunger cues
2. Prepare and put appropriate volume of milk in a cup
3. Sit the baby at 90° supporting the baby's head, neck and back.
4. Place the cup on the lower lip and tilt the cup so the milk reaches the baby lips
5. Let the baby lick the milk using the tongue
6. Continue tilting the cup as the baby continues to lick the milk.
7. When baby has taken enough, he will start closing his mouth and even fall asleep



- Do not feed baby when lying down
- Do not pour milk into the mouth
- Do not feed a sleeping baby



# Nasal Gastric Tube Insertion

## Sizing the NGT

- Measure the distance from the nose to the ear lobe, then to the midpoint between xiphisternum (epigastrium) and umbilicus.
- Mark the tube at this point

## Inserting

- Lubricate the tip of the NGT with breast milk/water
- Insert until the measured distance is reached
- Fix the tube with tape at the nose

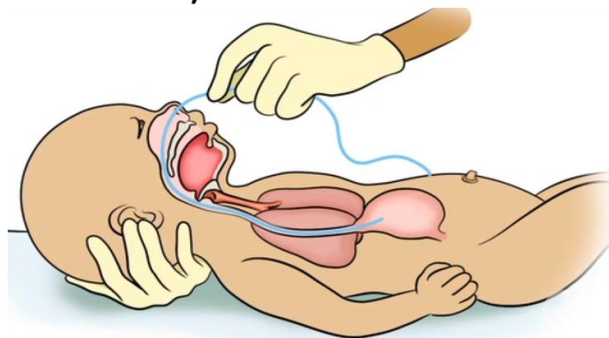
## Confirming position

- Check that aspirate turns blue litmus paper pink.
- If no aspirate is obtained, inject air down the tube and listen over the abdomen with a stethoscope
- Before feeding always confirm correct position

a) Correct Sizing



b) Correct Insertion



c) Correct Placement



# Monitoring Feeds

[HOSPITAL NAME]

NEONATAL MONITORING CHART + CPAP

Version 2.5

Name		IP NO	Sex M <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/>	D.O.A	D.O.B	
Date today		Diagnosis				
Birth Wt	gm	Interventions: CPAP <input type="checkbox"/> Oxygen <input type="checkbox"/> Phototherapy <input type="checkbox"/> Blood tranfusion <input type="checkbox"/> Exchange transfusion <input type="checkbox"/> KMC <input type="checkbox"/>				
<b>Daily Clinician Feed and Fluid prescription</b>		Monitoring Freq hrs   Time				
Day of Life	Current Wt = gm	<b>Vitals</b>	Temp (°C)			
Total input(feed and fluid) 24hrs = ml			Pulse (b/min)			
Feed: BF <input type="checkbox"/> EBM <input type="checkbox"/> Term Formula <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Term Formula <input type="checkbox"/>			Resp Rate (b/min)			
Route: Cup <input type="checkbox"/> NGT <input type="checkbox"/> OGT <input type="checkbox"/>			Oxy Sat (%) or Cy <sup>0</sup> Cy <sup>+</sup>			
Volume & Frequency = _____ ml 3hrly <input type="checkbox"/> 2hrly <input type="checkbox"/>		<b>Assessment</b>	Resp Distress 0,+ ,+++			
Total 24hr Volume = _____ ml			CPAP Pressure (cm H <sub>2</sub> O)			
IV Fluid & Additives	Vol (ml) Duration		FiO <sub>2</sub> (%)			
			Jaundice 0,+ ,+++			
			Apnoea Y/N			
			Blood Sugar (mmol/l)			
			Completed by (name)			
Other prescribing instructions			<b>Feed</b>	Breastfeeding sufficient Y/N		
Clinician's name Time:				EBM vol given (ml)		
				Formula vol given (ml)		
<b>Daily IV Fluid Nursing plan</b>		<b>Fluid</b>	IV volume given			
Start time:			IV Line working Y/N			
Hourly rate= _____ ml (____ drops/min)		<b>Output</b>	Vomit Y/N			
Planned vol = _____ ml in _____ hrs			Urine(diapers changed)			
			Stool Y/N			
Morning shift notes		Completed by (name)				
Category: A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/>		Total feed+fluid in this shift _____ ml				
Afternoon shift notes		Completed by (name)				
Category: A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/>		Total feed+fluid in this shift _____ ml				
Night shift notes		Completed by (name)				
Category: A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/>		Total feed+fluid in 24hrs _____ ml				
		Deficit _____ ml				

# Preparation of breastmilk storage

## Hand Hygiene

- Mothers should wash hands with soap and water before expressing and storing milk.
- Cleaning of breasts for expression not necessary.

## Risk of Contamination

- The risk of milk contamination when using pumps or during hand expression is the same. Always maintain hygiene

## Storage Container to Avoid

- Glass and polypropylene: Adherence of lipid soluble nutrients.
- Polyethylene: 60% drop in antibodies and the milk's ability to kill bacteria.
- Plastic bottles with Bisphenol A (BPA): endocrine disruptor

## Care of Containers

- Pump kits for expression and containers for storage should be cleaned with hot soapy water, them rinsed and air dried.

# Milk storage guidelines

Storage	Temp	Recommended Duration
• Room Temperature	16–25°C 27-32°C	8 hours 4 hours
• Insulated cooler bags/boxes with icepacks	15°C	24 hours
• Refrigerator	3 - 5°C	4 days
• Freezer Compartment inside Fridge (one door)	-15°C	2 weeks
• Self contained freezer unit of a fridge (two door)	-18°C	6 months
• Chest Deep Freezer	-20°C	12 months

# Using stored human milk

- Use **First in First Out** principle
- Frozen milk should be **slowly thawed** in the refrigerator over night - less fat loss.
- **AVOID** thawing milk in a hot water bath and microwave.
- Warm thawed milk by placing the container containing the milk in a bowl with warm water (37-40°C)
- Use breast milk within 24 hours of thawing in the refrigerator
- Anne Eglash et al ABM Clinical Protocol #8: Human Milk Storage Information for Home Use for Full-Term Infants, Revised 2017  
Once breast milk is brought to room temperature it should be used within 2 hours
- **NEVER** refreeze breast milk once it has been thawed.

# Feeding regimes for stable and unstable newborns: The value of trophic feeds

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# Definition

- ▶ Nutritionally insignificant volumes of enteral substrate  
Volume of trophic feed – **12 – 24 ml/kg/d** .
- ▶ Insufficient to meet the nutritional requirements of the preterm.
- ▶ Not considered trophic if  $> 25\%$  of newborn's nutritional needs
- ▶ Aims to accelerate the **gastrointestinal, physiological, endocrine and metabolic maturity.**

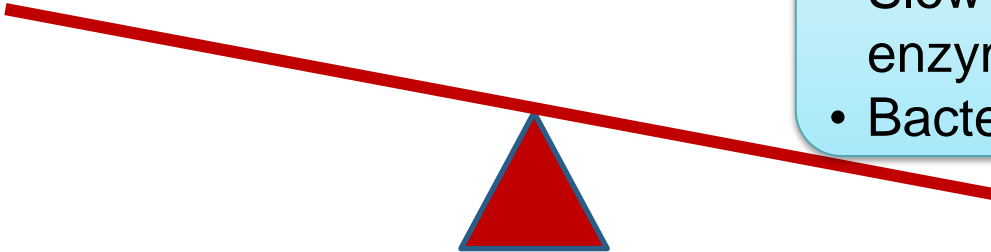
# Physiological Effects of trophic feeds on GIT

**Early Feeding**

- Enhanced GIT absorption
- Stimulates vital processes
- Improves digestive tolerance
- Enhances Growth

**Delayed Feeding**

- GIT mucosal atrophy
- Reduced intestinal size
- Slow maturation of GIT enzymes
- Bacterial overgrowth



*Breastfeeding, A Guide for the Medical Profession, 8<sup>th</sup> EDITION by Ruth A. Lawrence & Robert M. Lawrence*



# Rapid versus slow feeding among preterms/VLBW

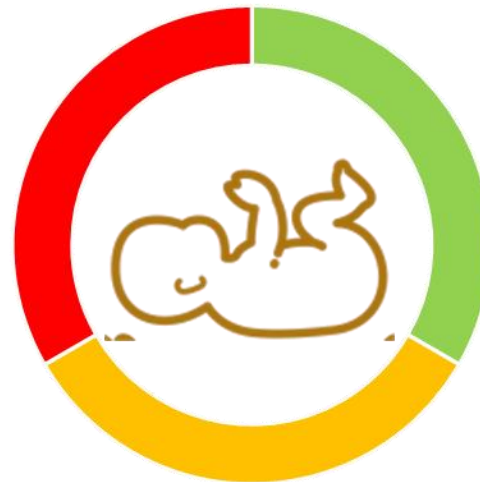
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# Advancement of enteral feeds in preterms/VLBWs

- **Goal of preterm nutrition-** achieve a postnatal growth rate approximating that of the normal fetus of the same gestational age.

*5-15% loss of BWT  
(regain in 10-  
14days)*

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*Weight gain  
15g/kg/d*

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*Energy requirement  
120kcal/kg/d  
(105-130kcal/kg/d)*

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# Advancement of enteral feeds in preterms/VLBWs

- Timing of introduction and advancement of feeds for preterms/VLBW infants has important outcomes.<sup>1</sup>
- **Slow advancement** – increase of feeds by <24ml/kg/d (15-20ml/kg/d)
- **Rapid advancement** – increase by 30-40ml/kg/d
- **Full enteral feeds** – 150mls/kg/d (**max** 180ml/kg/d)<sup>2</sup>

Aim to reach full enteral feeds by:  
<1000g- 2weeks  
1000-1500g- 1week

1. SIFT Investigators Group. Early enteral feeding strategies for very preterm infants: current evidence from Cochrane reviews. *Arch Dis Child Fetal Neonatal Ed.* 2013;98(6):F470–F472
2. Dutta S, et al. Guidelines for feeding very low birth weight infants. *Nutrients.* 2015 Jan 8;7(1):423-42.

# Slow advancement of enteral feeds in preterms/VLBWs

## NO EFFECT ON:<sup>3</sup>

- Risk of NEC
- Mortality risk
- Feeding intolerance

## Disadvantages

- Delay established full enteral nutrition (2-4days, 7 trials)<sup>4</sup>
- Prolonged Parenteral nutrition<sup>4</sup>
- Higher risk for invasive infection
- Longer time to gain weight (2-6days, 7trials)<sup>4</sup>

3. Oddie SJ, Young L, McGuire W. Slow advancement of enteral feed volumes to prevent necrotising enterocolitis in very low birth weight infants. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2017

4. Karagol BS, et. al. Randomized control trial of slow versus rapid enteral feeding advancements on the clinical outcomes of preterm infants with 750-1250g. *JPEN* 2013.

# WHO Recommendation for advancing enteral feeds in preterms/VLBW(1kg-<1.5kg)



**In VLBW infants who need to be fed by an alternative oral feeding method or given intra-gastric tube feeds, feed volumes can be increased by up to 30ml/kg/d with careful monitoring for feed intolerance. <sup>5</sup>**



5. WHO recommendations on Newborn Health, May 2017

# Total fluids (IVF+EBM) recommendations in preterms/VLBW

Weight	Day1	Day 2 to Day 7	Day 8 to 1 month of life
≥1500g	60 mls/kg/d	Increase by 20mls/kg/d to full feeds 150ml/kg/d	150-160mls/kg/d
<1500g	80mls/kg/d	Increase by 20mls/kg/d to full feeds 150ml/kg/d	150-160mls/kg/d

- Max IVF – 150mls/kg/d, max EBM- 180ml/kg/d
- Start Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> supplementation after 48hrs:
  - Na<sup>+</sup> - 3mmol/kg/d(19ml/kg/day N/S), K<sup>+</sup>- 1-2mmol/kg/d

Jochum F, et al., ESPGHAN/ESPEN/ESPR guidelines on pediatric parenteral nutrition: Fluid and electrolytes, Clinical Nutrition (2018)



# Feeding Recommendations for stable newly born breastfeed

Assess shortly after birth: Birth weight? Able to breastfeed?

Weight < 1500g

Start with EBM 80 mls/kg/day on day 1 increasing by 20mls/kg/day.

- Start feeds with EBM of 5 mls and increase by 5 mls each 3 hourly feed until full 3 hourly feed volume achieved.
- Eg 1000gm baby EBM = 1kg X80 =80ml/day ÷8 = 10mls 3hrly feeds. First feed 5mls then 10mls every 3hrs

Weight  $\geq$ 1500g and not able to breastfeed adequately (not on IVF) feed by cup based on infants hunger cues.



# Calculating feeds

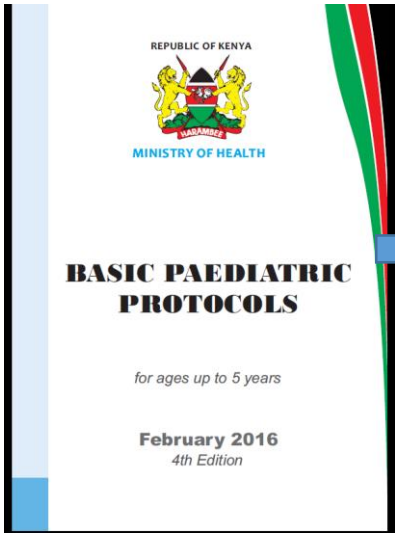
Birth weight – 1.2kg – stable

	Total fluid required /day	Three hourly feeds
Day 1	$80 \times 1.2 = 96\text{ml}$	12
Day 2	$100 \times 1.2 = 120\text{ml}$	15
Day 3	$120 \times 1.2 = 144\text{ml}$	18
Day 4	$140 \times 1.2 = 168\text{ml}$	21
Day 5	$160 \times 1.2 = 192\text{ ml}$	24

*Start at 80ml/kg/day volume of feeds.*

*Increase by 20ml/kg/day to full feeds (150ml/kg); maximum 180ml/kg/day*

# Feeding of the stable newborn



Weight (Kg)	0.8-0.9	0.9.-1.0	1.1-1.2	1.3-1.4	1.4-1.5	Total Daily Fluid/Milk Volume
	NG 3 hourly feed	NG 3 hourly feed	NG 3 hourly feed	NG 3 hourly feed	NG 3 hourly feed	
Day 1	8	9	11	13	14	80ml/kg/day
Day 2	10	11	14	16	18	100ml/kg/day
Day 3	12	14	17	20	21	120ml/kg/day
Day 4	14	16	19	23	25	140mls/kg/day
Day 5	16	18	22	26	28	160mls/kg/day
Day 6	18	20	25	29	31	180ml/kg/day



3 hourly NGT EBM feed volumes for stable newborns with birth weight less than 1500grams NGT

Age	0.6kg	0.7kg	0.8kg	0.9kg	1.0kg	1.1kg	1.2kg	1.3kg	1.4kg	1.5kg
D-1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
D-2	8	9	10	11	13	14	15	16	18	19
D-3	9	11	12	14	15	17	18	20	21	23
D-4	11	12	14	16	18	20	21	23	25	26
D-5	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30
D-6	14	16	18	20	23	25	27	29	32	34

# Increasing EBM in unstable newborns

		<1500grams	≥1500grams
Day 1	10% D	<b>80m/kg/day + trophic feeds</b>	<b>60ml/kg/day + trophic feeds</b>
Day 2	EBM <b>30ml/kg/day</b>	30mls/kg/day ( ÷ 3hrs feeds)	
	IVF	<b>100ml/kg –30mls/kg</b> = IVF volume	<b>80ml/kg –30mls/kg</b> = IVF volume
Day 3	EBM <b>60ml/kg/day</b>	60mls/kg/day ( ÷ 3hrs feeds)	
	IVF	<b>120ml/kg –60mls/kg</b> = IVF volume	<b>100ml/kg – 60mls/kg</b> = IVF volume

*Continue increasing by 20ml/kg to max 180ml/kg . After trophic feeds on day 1 increase **EBM 30mls/kg/day**, rest parenteral*  
*Withhold oral feeds is abdominal obstruction or ileus is suspected*

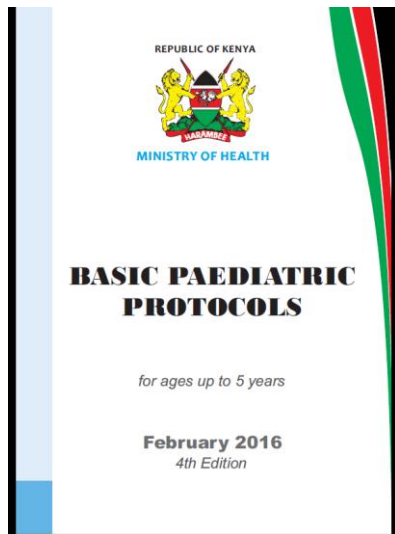
# Feeding of the unstable newborn



3 hourly NGT EBM feeds and ONE hourly IVF for UNSTABLE NEWBORNS with birth weight less than 1500grams

	0.6-0.7kg		0.8-0.9kg		1.0-1.1kg		1.2-1.3kg		1.4-1.5kg	
	EBM 3hrly	IVF mls/hr	EBM 3hrly	IVF mls/hr	EBM 3hrly	IVF mls/hr	EBM 3hrly	IVF mls/hr	EBM 3hrly	IVF mls/hr
D-1	1	2	2	3	2	4	3	4	3	5
D-2	2	2	3	2	4	3	5	4	5	4
D-3	5	2	6	2	8	3	9	3	11	4
D-4	11	0	10	2	12	2	14	3	16	3
D-5	13	0	17	0	21	2	19	2	22	2
D-6	15	0	19	0	24	0	23	2	27	2
D-7	15	0	19	0	24	0	28	0	33	0

12



Weight (kg)	0.8 - 0.9		0.9 - 1.0		1.1 - 1.2		1.3 - 1.4		1.4 - 1.5	
	IVF mls per hr	NGT 3hrly feed	IVF mls per hr	NGT 3hrly feed	IVF mls per hr	NGT 3hrly feed	IVF mls per hr	NGT 3hrly feed	IVF mls per hr	NGT 3hrly feed
Day 1	3	0	3	0	4	0	3	0	4	0
Day 2	2	5	3	5	3	5	4	5	5	5
Day 3	1	10	2	10	2	10	3	10	4	10
Day 4	0	15	1	15	1	15	3	15	4	15
Day 5	0	16	0	18	0	22	2	26	3	28
Day 6	0	18	0	20	0	25	1	29	3	30
Day 7+	0	21	0	22	0	27	0	32	0	35

# Gastric residuals monitoring in preterms

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# Gastric residuals in preterms

- **Gastric residual-** volume of milk + GI secretions remaining in the stomach after a certain time interval.<sup>1</sup>
- Increased residuals common in preterms due to:<sup>1,2</sup>

## Intrinsic factors

- Immaturity of the gut
  - Delayed gastric emptying
  - Slower intestinal transit
  - Inadequate secretion of gut hormones and enzymes
  - Possible duodeno-gastric reflux

## Extrinsic factors

- Formula feeds
- Certain drugs e.g. opioids
- Body position
- Illness

1. Abiramalatha T, et. al. *Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews* 2019, Issue 7. Art. No.: CD012937

2. Li YF, et. al. *Pediatrics and Neonatology* 2014;55(5):335-40

# Gastric residuals monitoring effects

**NO EFFECTS** in incidence of:

- NEC
- Invasive infection

## Disadvantages:

- Delays time to establish full enteral feeds
- Delays time to regain birth weight
- Significant increase in the episodes of feed interruption
- Significant increase in the number of TPN and its complications <sup>1</sup>
- Damages gastric mucosa by negative pressure <sup>2</sup>

1. Kaur A, et. al. *Journal of Paediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition* 2015; 60(2):259-63..  
2. Li YF, et. al. *Pediatrics and Neonatology* 2014;55(5):335-40

# Recommendations for gastric residual monitoring in preterms

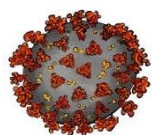
- Do not check for gastric residuals routinely
- Only monitor if any signs suggestive of NEC or feeding intolerance
- Isolated green or yellow residuals are unimportant. Vomiting bile may indicate an intestinal obstruction or ileus.
- Withhold feeds in case of hemorrhagic residuals, as hemorrhagic residuals are significant.



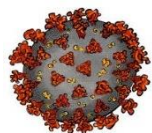
# Breastfeeding in the Covid19 era

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# What is COVID-19?



**Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)** is a respiratory tract infection caused by a newly emergent coronavirus , that was first recognized in Wuhan, China, in December 2019

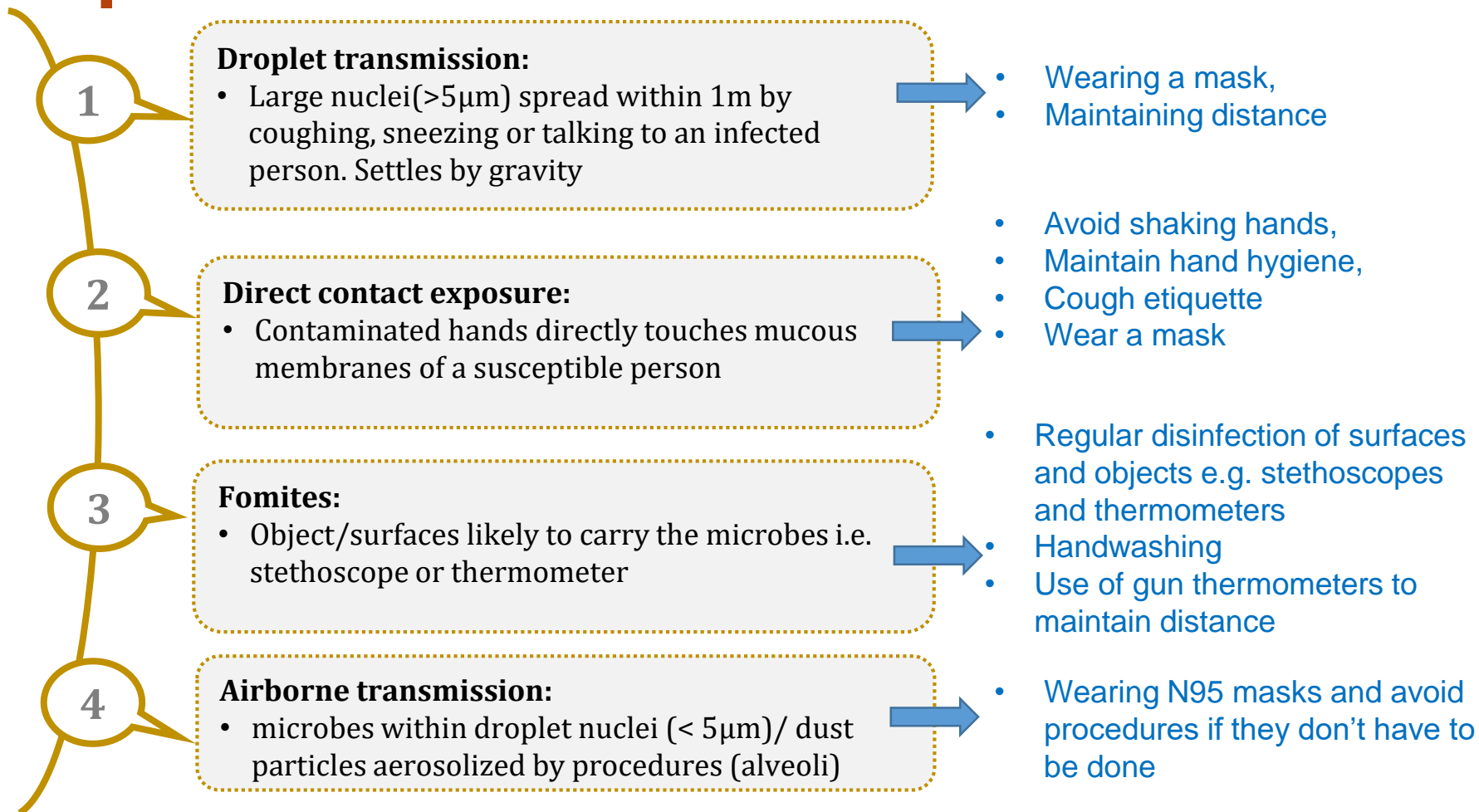


The virus that causes COVID-19 is designated as **severe acute respiratory syndrome corona virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2)**



**March 11, 2020 , WHO characterized COVID-19 as a pandemic**

# Modes of transmission & stopping spread of SARs-Cov2



Infection can be spread by symptomatic or asymptomatic patients.- when unwell should be isolated to break the cycle of spread. HCWs should take IPC precautions when attending to all patients

# Identifying a mother with suspected covid 19

## Suspected case

- Acute respiratory illness and/or fever  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  **AND** no known aetiologies that fully explain the presentation **AND** a history of travel to a community with COVID-19 transmission at least **14 days** prior to symptom onset;
- OR
- **Any** acute respiratory illness **AND** having been in contact with a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case in the last 14 days prior to symptom onset; OR
- Severe acute respiratory illness **AND** requiring hospitalization **AND** in the absence of an alternative diagnosis that fully explains the clinical presentation

## Confirmed case

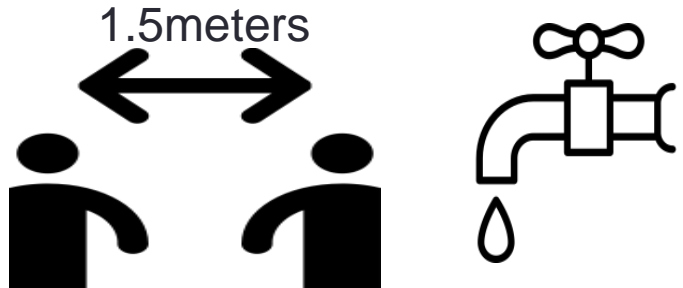
- A person with **laboratory** confirmation of COVID-19 infection, **irrespective** of clinical signs and symptoms

## Probable case

- A probable case is one with pending results

# Lay out in postnatal, NBU, KMC room & expressing breastmilk room

All mothers to keep 1.5 meter apart in all places.  
All wash hands frequently & wear masks;  
Instruct all mothers on cough etiquette and hand hygiene. Self temp monitoring twice a day



**Potentially Contaminated zone**  
**Suspected COVID 19**

**Confirmed COVID 19**  
Postnatal, KMC, NBU rooms etc

**Suspected COVID-19**  
Postnatal, KMC, NBU rooms etc

**Clean zone**  
No fever/no cough/no contact



Postnatal, KMC, NBU rooms etc

Beds 1.5 meters apart, cottons masks.

# Breastfeeding in COVID19

## Recommendations

1

Support mother to breastfeed

2

Practice skin to skin contact

3

Rooming- in



## Actions

1

Respiratory hygiene and wear a mask

2

Wash hand before and after handling the baby

3

Routine cleaning and disinfection of surfaces.

Spread of infection through breastmilk is unknown

# Feeding options in COVID19



Best option for the well mother  
breastfeeding



Feeding option for the unwell mother

- Preferable- Expressed breastmilk
- Others
  - Donor breast milk.
  - Relactation.
  - Wet nursing.



Health care workers and facilities **should not** promote

- Breastmilk substitutes
- Feeding bottles
- Pacifiers and teats

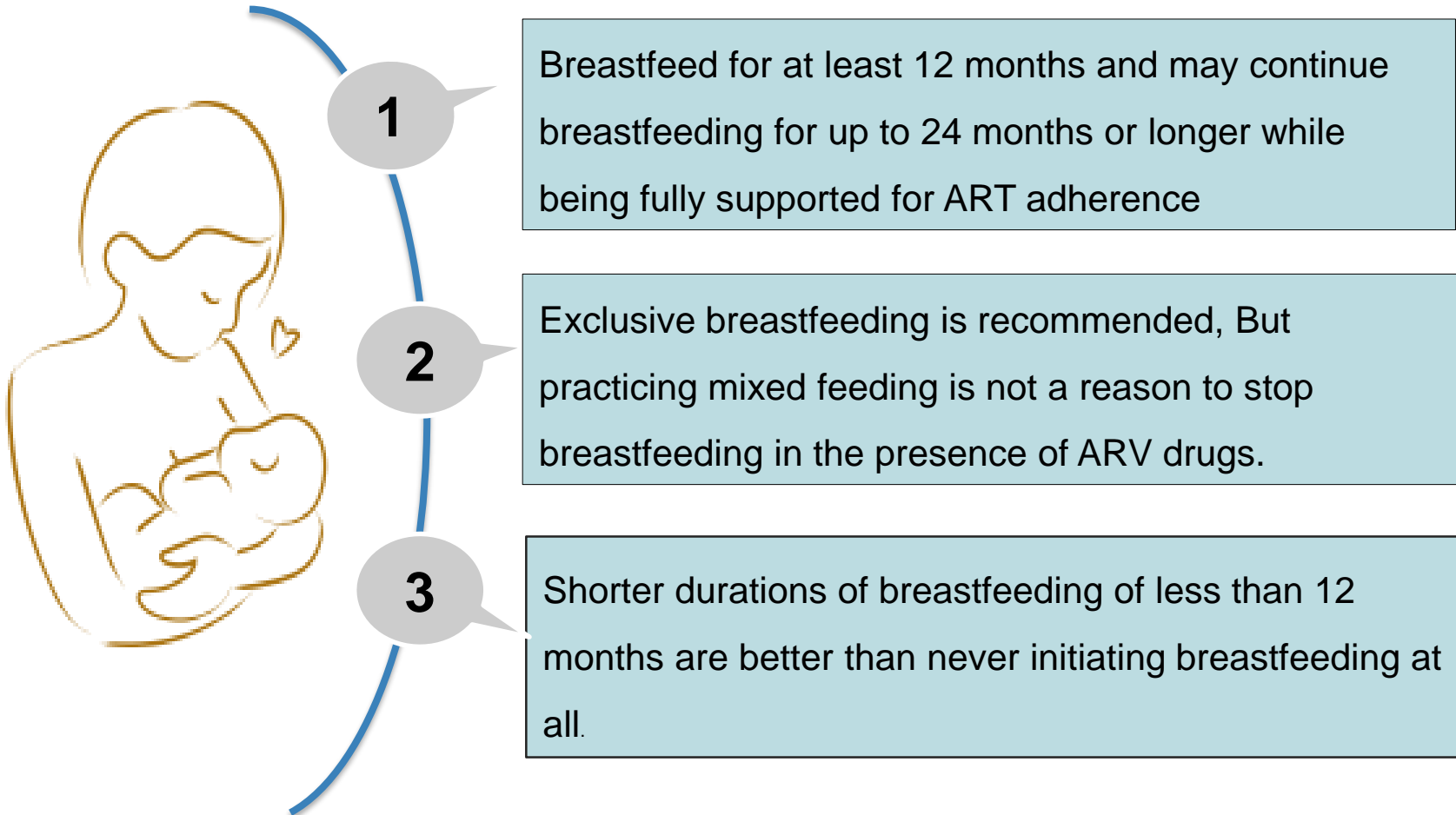
# Breastfeeding and HIV



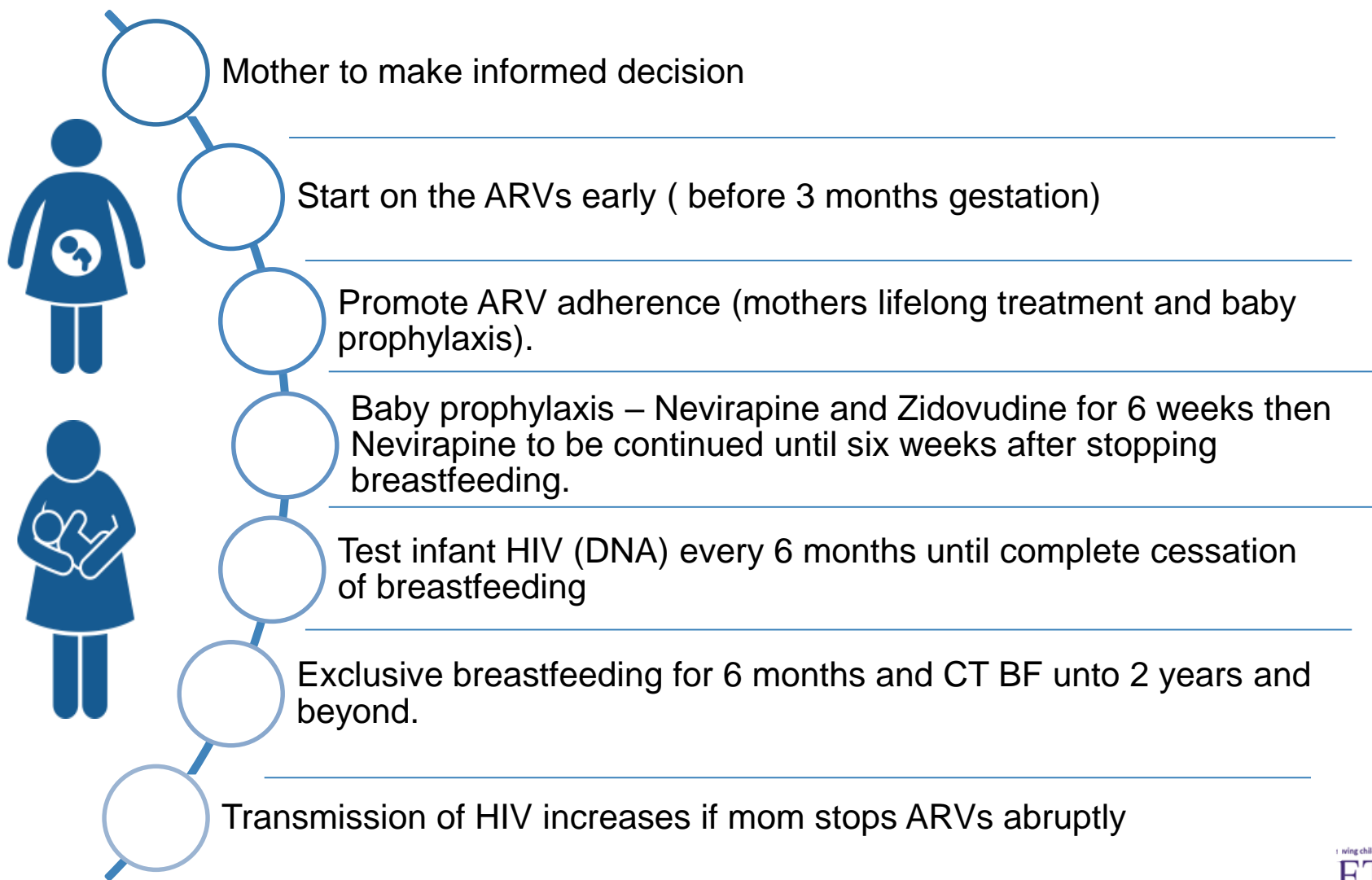


# Breastfeeding and HIV

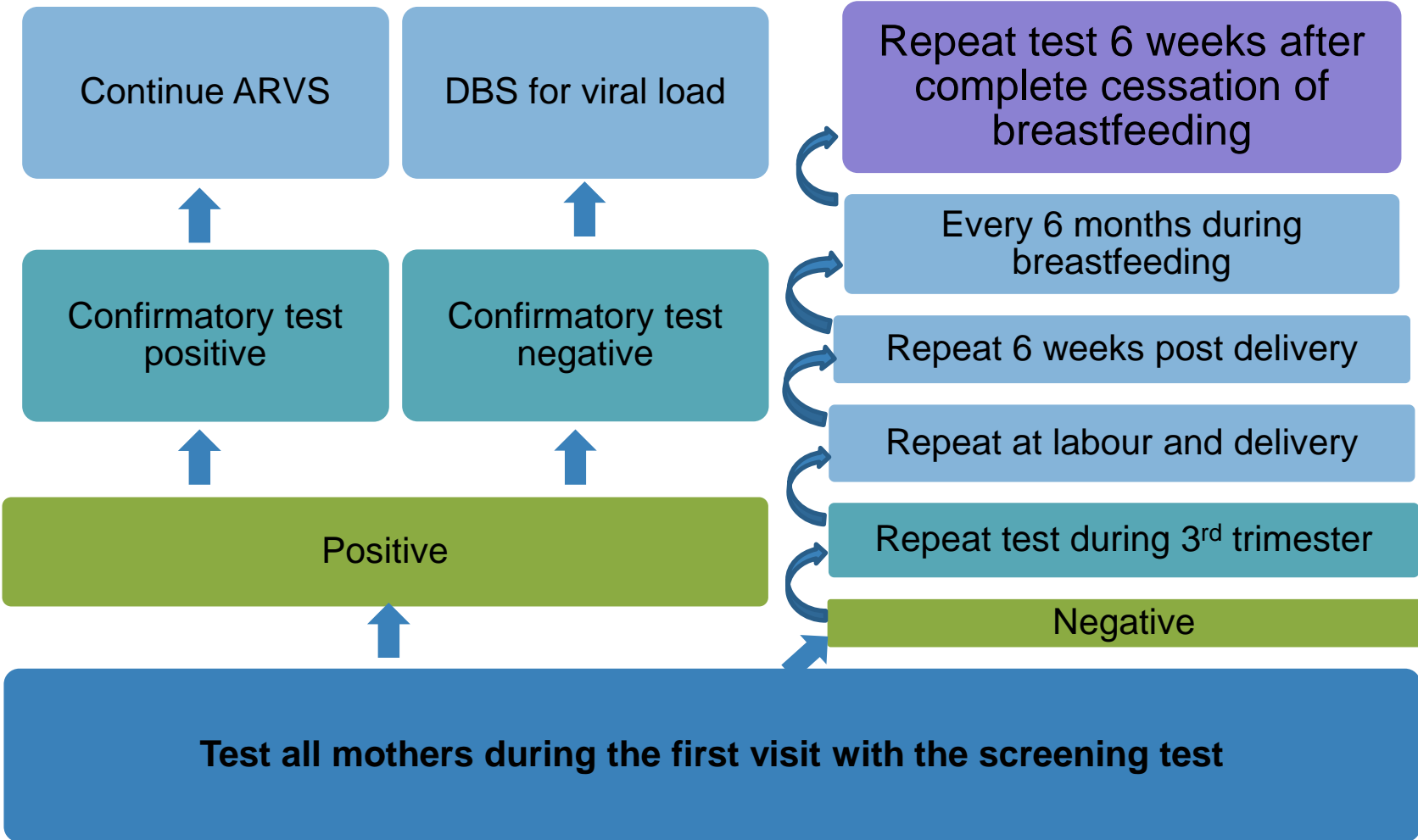
## WHO 2016 recommendation



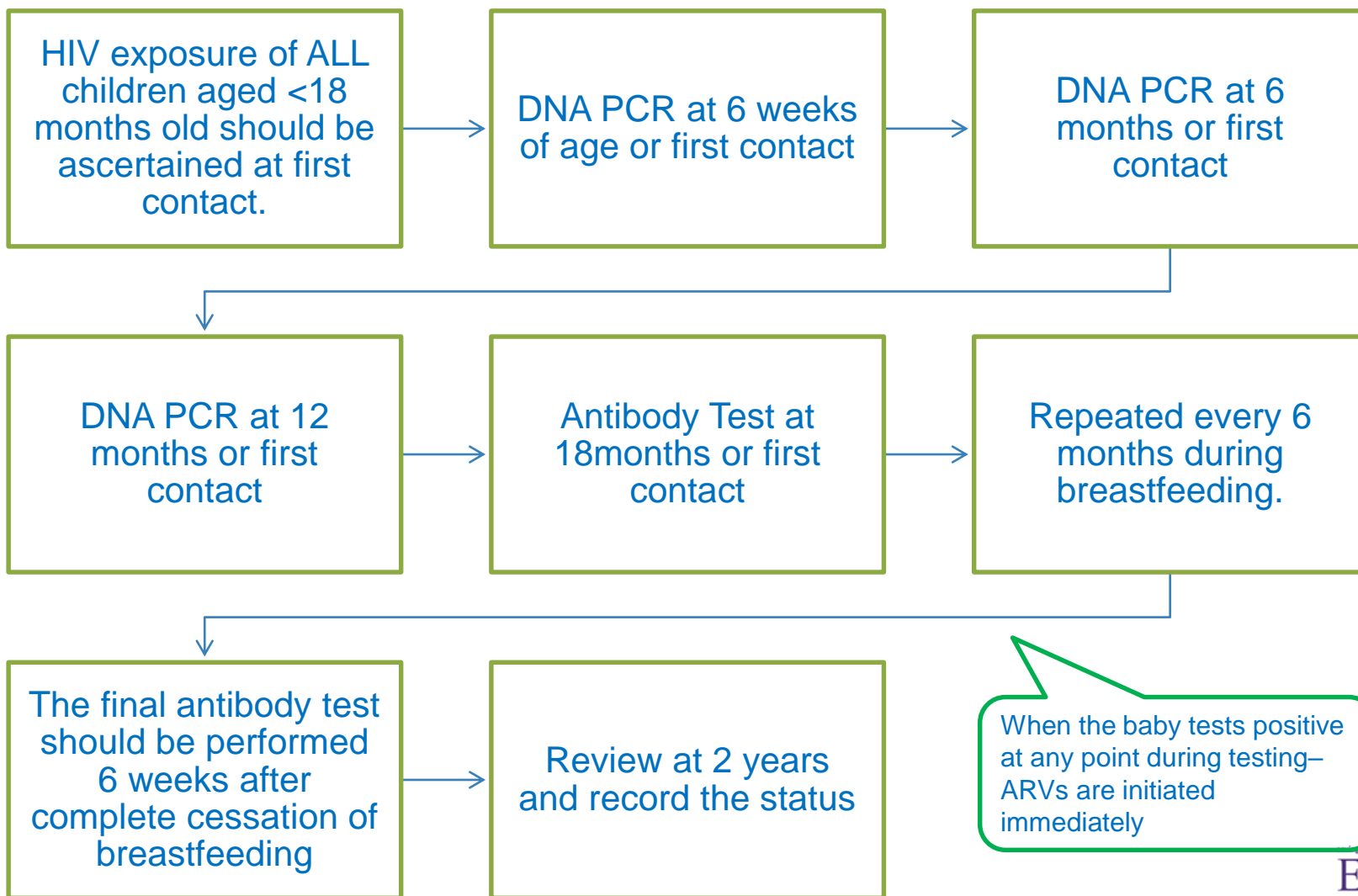
# HIV and breastfeeding




# MOH guidelines on testing of Pregnant women



# MOH guidelines- for HIV Exposed infant who is breastfed



# Summary



Breastfeeding is indispensable for the growth and development of the baby

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Mother should be taught and supported to acquire appropriate feeding practices

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HCW should teach the mothers on expression of breastmilk and cup feeding

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Delaying trophic feeds is harmful to the newborn

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Rapid increase in feeds is recommended on babies not of full enteral feeds on day 1

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Do not monitor gastric residual volume

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Exclusive breastfeeding should be encouraged in mothers with COVID-19 and HIV positive mothers and the necessary precaution should be taken.