Ensuring early essential newborn care in the context of COVID-19

Dr Do Duy Long, Quang Ninh Hospital for Women and Children
& Vu Hoang Duong, Alive & Thrive
Quang Ninh province was an early hotbed of the COVID-19 pandemic in Viet Nam

- **Viet Nam:**
  - First case on Jan 23, 2020
  - 335 cases, 10 active cases, 0 deaths
  - No community transmission for two months

- **Quang Ninh province:**
  - Borders China and near Hanoi
  - 9 cases, 0 active cases

- **Quang Ninh Hospital for Women and Children:**
  - 8,000 births/year, 52% cesarean section (2019)
  - Designated as *Center of Excellence for Breastfeeding* in Dec 2019
Early preparation helped to ensure the provision of routine services amid COVID-19 pandemic

• Hospital began COVID-19 response on February 10, 2020
• Designated one separate clinic, one labor room, one operation room, and four postpartum rooms in the Department of Tropical Diseases for suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases
Social distancing measures were applied to hospital personnel and admitted patients

- Tele-coaching health staff on COVID-19 treatment guidelines and protocols
- Ensuring two-meter distance in public areas (clinic, waiting rooms, canteen)
Hospital implemented measures to manage admissions appropriately

- Routine screening and classification by risk level upon arrival at the hospital’s reception area
- Suspected cases follow a separate route and receive RT-PCR test by the hospital (2 hours) and by Center for Disease Control (8 hours) for confirmation
A COVID-19 suspected case: Cesarean section birth with 37-week twins, exclusively breastfed
Maintained WHO-recommended early essential newborn care services for all 56 suspected cases of COVID-19.

As Center of Excellence for Breastfeeding, the hospital ensures:

- Birth companion of choice (for vaginal births).
- Prolonged skin-to-skin contact.
- Breastfeeding counseling and support.
- Early initiation of breastfeeding.
- No separation.
- Rooming-in.
- Exclusive breastfeeding.
Twenty-eight hospitals enrolled in the *Centers of Excellence for Breastfeeding* initiative maintain breastfeeding and newborn care services during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information about the *Center of Excellence for Breastfeeding* initiative: https://www.aliveandthrive.org/how-we-work/centers-of-excellence-for-breastfeeding/
STAY CONNECTED WITH ALIVE & THRIVE

@aliveandthrive
facebook.com/fhi360.aliveandthrive
youtube.com/aliveandthrive

www.aliveandthrive.org