

Maternity and Neonatal Service

COVID-19: Guidance for visitors and women

- You and your birthing partner will be asked screening questions on entering the maternity building.
- You must wear a **face covering or face mask** at all times while in the maternity building.
- You must sanitise your hands on entering the maternity building and again on admission to the individual ward or department.
- We expect you to have a COVID-19 swab test when you are admitted to the maternity service. This helps ensure that women and staff in our hospital are safe.
- At some stage, you may be identified as a contact of someone who has tested positive for COVID-19. If this happens, you will be advised on the current recommended action.

Scans and antenatal appointments

- One partner may accompany a woman attending the following;
 - Early Pregnancy Unit
 - booking scan
 - anomaly scan
 - fetal medicine scan
 - antenatal appointments
- We have to adhere to 2 metre social distancing in our outpatient settings, in particular waiting areas. Although you are welcome to bring your partner to all appointments, please be aware that you may be asked to wait outside the building until seating becomes available. We would ask you to consider attending antenatal appointments on your own if you can.
- Please arrive **no earlier** than 10 minutes prior to your allocated appointment time.
- If your antenatal appointment is on the same day as your GTT, your partner may only accompany you to your antenatal appointment and will be contacted by phone to come in and join you.
- When you attend the Maternity Assessment Unit, your partner will be asked to wait outside the building until you move into the assessment room.
- We cannot welcome children at this time.

Induction of labour

- A nominated birth partner may accompany you for the induction of labour process in exceptional circumstances. The duration of the visit will be decided by the midwife in charge.

Labour and birth

- One nominated birth partner may accompany you during labour and at the birth (including caesarean birth).

Neonatal Unit

- Two parents or designated carers may provide care for their baby in the Special Care Baby Unit or the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (PPE is required and will be provided).

Visiting in antenatal and postnatal wards

- One daily visit from one of two nominated birth partners (from up to two households) will be permitted in our inpatient wards. The duration and timing of the visits will be decided by the midwife in charge.

Exceptional circumstances are considered
Regional Principles for Visiting in Northern Ireland
(Updated 19th August 2021)