

## Maternity Visiting during Covid-19 pandemic times

Hello to all our mums or mums to be and their birth partners.

We here at the Walsall maternity service appreciate and understand that this may be worrying time for you all during this Covid-19 Pandemic period. Our aim is to strive to ensure your birth is safe and enjoyable as much as possible during these worrying times. The safety of our mothers/babies, birth partners and our staff remain our priority at all times.

Please help us keep everyone safe by following our visiting guidance whilst you are in hospital. The measures described help us all maintain social distancing as far as possible and reduce the risk of spreading infection for all of us.

As part of your hospital admission you will be asked to undertake a mouth/nasal swab for COVID19.

The midwifery team will arrange this for you. If any concerns please ask us.

**We ask our mother and partners in maternity to wear a mask at all times in all areas. If you do remove your masks please put your masks on when any member of the team is present in your room or providing any care or having any discussions with you. Our mums to be labour are an exception to this.**

***If there is a reason that your birth partner cannot wear a face mask /covering they will not be allowed to come onto the delivery suite or in the ward areas. In these cases we ask that you arrange an alternative birth partner so you can be supported during your hospital stay with us.***

***At present we are restricting visiting to only a designated named birth partner, this is to reduce any additional risk to all our mothers/babies and staff.***

### **Antenatal Clinic:**

We ask our mothers/mums to be to please attend for your antenatal appointments in hospital alone. We are currently risk assessing scans rooms to make it safer for both our moms, partners and staff. Your partner can of course drop you off and then will be asked to wait ideally in your car or outside the hospital whilst you are assessed.

### **Fetal Assessment Unit**

We ask mothers/mums to be to attend the fetal assessment unit alone. Your partner can of course drop you off and then will be asked to wait ideally in your car or outside the hospital whilst you are assessed.

## **Maternity Triage**

We ask mothers/mums to be to attend Maternity triage alone. Your partner can of course drop you off and then will be asked to wait ideally in your car or outside triage whilst you are assessed.

## **Delivery suite**

**Induction of labour:** If you are admitted to Delivery suite for your induction of labour your named birth partner can accompany you. Your birth partner must return home by 10pm and can return either when you are in labour or during the hours of 10am and 10pm.

**For birth:** Your named birth partner will of course be welcomed to stay with you throughout your stay in the delivery room for the birth of your baby. When you are transferred to the ward your named birth partner will be able to go to the ward with you (unless after 10pm).

## **Antenatal/Postnatal ward.**

Your named birth partner will be welcomed onto the ward between the hours of 10am and 10pm. We have a bathroom/toilet and a hot drinks machine on ward 25 (Primrose ward) for you and your birth partners use whilst they are with you. Please ask the team on the wards to show you where these are. These are provided to reduce the number of times that you and your named birth partner need to leave the ward. Your birth partner will need to provide their own food or use the restaurant/shop facilities in the hospital.

Reducing the number of times that you and your partner leaves the ward will reduce your exposure to any possible infection and help in keeping us all safe.

## **Midwifery led Unit (MLU)**

When you arrive at the MLU for the birth of your baby we welcome your named birth partner to remain with you as your birth support.

If attending the MLU for an appointment following the birth of your baby we ask that only mums and babies attend, your partner can of course drop you off but we request that they wait outside the MLU for you and your baby.

**We do appreciate that there may be some situations when you will need the support of your named birth partner we will be happy to discuss this with you and will strive to accommodate when at all possible Please speak to your Midwife about this.**

Please note that we require named birth partners to wear a mask at all times that they are in the Maternity unit. They will be asked to leave the ward if they do not wish to wear a mask.

## Contact Numbers

If you have any concerns or questions about our visiting guidance please contact us on any of the numbers below:

Fetal assessment Unit: 01922 656249

Maternity triage: 01922 656967



Delivery suite: 01922 656283/ 656246

Midwife led unit: 01922 605420

Community midwife Office 01922 656248 (1-4)

Maternity helpline mon- Fri 9-5: 01922 605426



[www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk](http://www.walsallhealthcare.nhs.uk)   @WalsallHcareNHS

# **Maternity Visiting during Covid-19 pandemic times**

**From  
27/1/21**