

Maternity Services

UPDATE



NHS

South Tees Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Maternity Services Update – 10

April 2021

Welcome to the South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Maternity Service leaflet that aims to provide you with updated information in relation to service changes due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

Information continues to change on a frequent basis from the Government, Public Health England and other sources. The Maternity Service aims to keep you updated on the Trust website on a regular basis if things are changing. Any changes made are to keep you, your family and our staff as safe as possible.

Please refer to the previous updates on the website for any answers that may not be addressed below

These are some of the questions we're frequently being asked

- **Are there any precautions I can take?**

Yes

We recommend all pregnant patients and their accompanying birth partner's/nominated support person access the free Covid-19 lateral flow home tests. These tests can be requested online for home delivery, from participating pharmacies or from participating test sites <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>. We recommend you carry out a test the day before an appointment/scan and if positive call the maternity unit to report your result and have a plan of care made. You and your birth partner/nominated support person will still be offered a Covid-19 test before any admission to ensure your safety and that of other patients and staff.

- **Are Partners/nominated support person able to attend ultrasound scans and antenatal clinic appointments?**

Yes

Following ongoing review of guidance we are pleased to welcome partners to attend antenatal appointments. **To maintain social distancing within the department it is important partners wait outside the hospital building or in their vehicle until a room is available.** We encourage all pregnant women and their partners/nominated support person to carry out twice weekly lateral flow tests to protect patients, other families and staff and keep everyone as safe as possible (see above for access to lateral flow).

- **Can my partner/nominated support person attend for an induction of labour?**

Yes

From Monday 26th April we are pleased to welcome your birthing partner/nominated support person to accompany you on admission to Central Delivery Suite for induction of labour. They can remain with you until 8pm on day of admission. If you remain in the induction suite the following day your partner/nominated support person is able to attend from 10am to 8pm and then accompany you into a delivery room once labour has started.

- **Can my partner/nominated support person attend during labour?**

Yes

One birthing partner/nominated support person is able to accompany you to the maternity unit when you think you are in labour. Partners/nominated support person are required to wear a surgical mask at all times and are asked not to leave the unit once admitted. Your birthing partner/nominated support person should be from the same household bubble and be free of Covid-19 symptoms. If a birthing partner/nominated supported person has a confirmed positive result or suspected of having, or isolating due to Covid-19 contact they will be unable to attend the maternity unit and continue to follow Government guidance on isolation. If your birth partner/nominated support person is unable to attend due to isolation you are able to have an alternative birthing partner who is free of symptoms of Covid-19.

- **Can my partner attend the antenatal ward?**

Yes

From Monday 26th April your partner/nominated support person is able to support you on the antenatal ward between the hours of 10am to 8pm this must remain the same person for the duration of the stay. Staff will keep a record of partners/nominated support person contact details for track and trace purposes and will ask Covid-19 screening questions before admission. Partners/nominated support person must have had a negative Covid-19 swab on patient admission and be in the same household or support bubble.

- **Can my partner attend the postnatal ward?**

Yes

From Monday 26th April your partner/nominated support person is able to support you on the postnatal ward between the hours of 10am to 8pm this must remain the same person for the duration of the stay. Staff will keep a record of partners/nominated support person contact details for track and trace purposes and will ask Covid-19 screening questions before admission. Partners/nominated support person must have had a negative Covid-19 swab on patient admission and be in the same household or support bubble.

- **Will I be offered a Covid-19 vaccine?**

Yes

Pregnant women will be offered the Covid-19 vaccine by GP/vaccination centres at the same time as the rest of the population based on your age and clinical risk group.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has published an update in relation to COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy.

Based on data from the US, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that it's preferable for pregnant women in the UK to be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available. There is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, but more research is needed.