Welcome to the third 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, to keep informed. Any changes made we make are to keep you, your family and our staff as safe as possible.

These are some of the questions we’re frequently being asked:

Please refer to the Issue 1 and 2 to answer some of your questions

Please note unless it states the answers to the previous questions have not changed from previous updates and is reviewed on a weekly basis.

- **Can I have a waterbirth? (update from Issue 2 - April 2020)**
  
  **Maybe**
  
  As we are now asking all patients to be swabbed for Covid-19 on admission any women
  
  o With a negative result can consider a waterbirth as an option for labour and delivery.

  o With a positive result would still not be able to have a waterbirth due to the risk of infection. Please speak to your midwife to discuss your options

- **Will I be screened for Covid-19?**
  
  **Yes**
  
  We are asking all patients to be swabbed for Covid-19 when you require admission to a hospital bed to ensure we take the right precautions to safely manage your care, to protect other service users and the staff.

  The swab is a simple procedure. A long type cotton bud swab is taken from inside the nose and the back of the throat. The results will usually take around 6 hours.
Can my partner be present if I need an emergency (unplanned) caesarean section?
Yes if:

- You have no symptoms of Covid-19
- You have had a negative Covid-19 swab result from your admission
- You are not requiring a general anaesthetic

Will I still see a midwife when I go home from hospital?
Yes

The community midwife will still continue to visit you after you go home from hospital and will arrange visits with you. As well as visits at home some of these may be offered in a health centre or by telephone appointment.

All routine checks will still be carried out for example weighing your baby and carrying out the Newborn bloodspot (heelprick).

You will still receive support if you have any issues with feeding your baby. Further support on breast feeding and/or making up feeds can be found on the baby buddy webpage/app https://www.bestbeginnings.org.uk/baby-buddy

If my baby is admitted to the Neonatal Unit (NICU), can I breast feed?
Yes

Mothers who are breast feeding continue to be supported by our neonatal nursing staff when they are present on the neonatal unit. They can choose to express their milk by the infant’s bedside or make use of our breast pump facilities; or alternatively if their baby is well enough, put baby to the breast. We have also provided our mothers with a breast pump that they can take home and use when they are not present on the unit. You can continue to take your baby out of the cot or incubator for cuddles and Kangaroo care.