

# Maternity Services

**UPDATE**



**NHS**

South Tees Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Maternity Services Update – 5

June 2020

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:**

- **Will I need to wear a mask/face covering for my appointments?**

Yes

In line with national guidance, we are asking all patients and visitors to wear a face covering or mask when attending appointments. Masks are available at maternity reception for anyone who does not have their own. You will also now be asked to have your temperature taken on arrival to ensure you are cared for in the appropriate area to reduce the risk of COVID to patients and staff

- **Will I need to wear a mask in labour?**

Maybe

If you are COVID unknown status you will be offered a mask in labour which is voluntary. If you have a positive swab you will be asked to wear a mask, women with a negative swab result will not be required to wear a mask.

- **Will my birthing partner have to wear a mask?**

Yes

We are asking all birthing partners to wear a mask when in delivery suite. This will provide further protection to staff involved in your care and to your birthing partner. Birth partners do not need to be from the same household as you but must be free of COVID-19 symptoms.

- **Can I bring a partner to an appointment /ultrasound scan?**

No

You should still continue to attend all appointments both in the community and the hospital ALONE. We continue to provide 2 free scan pictures that you can share with your partner.

- **Will I be offered a membrane sweep?**

Yes

Your community midwife will offer you an optional membrane sweep at 38 weeks if it is your 1<sup>st</sup> baby and all ladies at 40 weeks. Your midwife will discuss this and induction of labour with you prior to the appointment

- **Can I have a homebirth?**

Yes

We are pleased to be able to offer homebirth and homebirth planning to all patients who would like to consider this as an option. This will continue to be reviewed in line with any staffing issues. Please speak to your midwife or ring the 24 hour advice line for any further information.

- **Are there any precautions I could be taking?**

Yes

We are advising all patients who have a planned procedure such as an elective caesarean or induction of labour to isolate with their household for 2 weeks prior to admission. We appreciate this may not always be possible but limiting social contact prior to and following admission is known to reduce the risks associated with COVID-19. We recommend any patients who have a caesarean also isolate for 2 weeks as a family following surgery to again reduce any risks.

- **If my birthing partner is unable to isolate will they still be able to attend?**

Yes

Your birthing partner will still be able to attend with you in labour if they are unable to isolate as long as they are free of symptoms.

- **Will I be offered COVID testing in pregnancy?**

No

This is offered on admission only or pre admission prior to elective procedures such as Induction of Labour or Caesarean section, as the test result is only valid for 72 hours following being taken

- **Will my birthing partner be offered testing?**

No

Your birthing partner will need to meet the COVID screening criteria and will be required to wear a mask at all times. Screening will not be undertaken due to laboratory capacity and turnaround times

- **Have you had a high number of pregnant women testing positive for COVID-19?**

No

The numbers of positive screening results are very low and have fallen in the last month. However it is important that you stay safe by following the government regulations for isolation and social distancing. Evidence suggests that this is especially important if you are in the third trimester of pregnancy.