

# Maternity Services

**UPDATE**



**NHS**

South Tees Hospitals  
NHS Foundation Trust

## Maternity Services Update – 8

### December 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:

- **Are partners able to attend antenatal appointments?**  
**Yes**

Following a successful phased approach, from the 23<sup>rd</sup> December we are pleased to invite partners to attend antenatal clinic appointments at 12 and 20 weeks only. Partners must be from the same household bubble and be free of COVID-19 symptoms. Partners will be asked to wait in their vehicle or outside until the scanning room is available, this will ensure we can maintain social distancing regulations. Partners will also be required to wear a surgical mask upon entering the maternity unit to protect patients and staff. We will continue to review this on a regular basis in line with any further national changes.

- **Can my partner attend in labour?**  
**Yes**

We are pleased to invite partners to attend with patients in spontaneous labour. Partners will be able to attend the maternity assessment unit and the central delivery suite. Partners are required to wear a surgical mask and are asked not to leave the unit once inside to reduce infection risk. Partners must be from the same household bubble and be free of COVID-19 symptoms. If a partner 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 must continue to follow Government guidance on isolation.

- **Can my partner attend for an induction of labour?**  
**Yes**

We welcome your birthing partner to accompany you on admission to central delivery suite for induction of labour. They can remain with you for 1 to 2 hours until you are moved to the induction suite where social distancing can no longer be maintained. Once your induction of

labour progresses and you are moved into a single delivery room your partner will be able to attend to provide support.

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

**Yes**

Your partner is now able to support you on the antenatal ward which will take place in staggered time slots to maintain social distancing in the shared bays. This will be for your birth partner only and must remain the same person for the duration of the stay. Staff will keep a record of partners' contact details for track and trace purposes and will ask COVID-19 screening questions before admission. Partners must be asymptomatic of COVID-19 and be in the same household or support bubble as the patient. Partners are unable to bring any items into the ward other than clothes and hygiene products.

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

**Yes**

Your birth partner is able to support you on the postnatal ward in staggered time slots to ensure social distancing is maintained. This must remain the same birth partner for the duration of your stay and they must not leave the ward during the time slot or they will be unable to be readmitted to the area. Staff will keep a record of partner contact details for track and trace purposes and will ask COVID-19 screening questions before admission. Partners must be asymptomatic of COVID-19 and be in the same household or support bubble as the patient. Partners will be asked to remain in their vehicle until they are contacted by the patient to attend the unit.

- **Are staff being offered regular COVID-19 tests?**

**Yes**

All of our staff are now able to access COVID self-testing kits that can be used at home prior to a shift. These tests are voluntary, but all patient-facing staff who have not had a positive swab test within the last 90 days are being strongly encouraged to take part to help keep our hospitals and healthcare services as safe as possible for patients, visitors and colleagues. Staff are asked to complete self-testing twice a week and will see the results after 30 minutes as they do not need to be processed in a laboratory. Any staff member who receives a positive test result will be required to isolate as per Government guidelines.