

## Visiting at the Royal Berkshire Hospital

# Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for staff, family and friends

*Compassionate care while keeping everyone safe.*

### What to expect when supporting a woman during induction of labour, labour, elective (planned) Caesarean section and on the antenatal and postnatal wards.

**Please carry out a Lateral Flow Test (LFT) at home each time before you visit.** Order these free from <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests> and report the result online at [www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result](http://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result). Or collect LFTs from a local pharmacy with a code – visit [www.gov.uk/get-collect-code](http://www.gov.uk/get-collect-code) or call 119. **If positive, please DO NOT VISIT.**

Only one birth supporter can accompany a woman either in Antenatal Clinic, Day Assessment Unit or during induction of labour, or a Caesarean section. The supporter must be well, without symptoms of Coronavirus and have not tested positive for Coronavirus in the last 10 days. A negative LFT result should be shown on arrival for the woman and supporter.

A second birth supporter can attend during labour. They must be well, without symptoms of Coronavirus and have not tested positive for Coronavirus in the last 10 days. A negative LFT result should be shown on arrival for the woman and supporter(s).

It is safest to travel to hospital by private car or taxi. You can use public transport if you have no Coronavirus symptoms. If you need help with arranging transport to the hospital, please telephone our Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS) for advice on 0118 322 8338.

Please bring all necessary belongings with you into hospital for mother and baby to avoid unnecessary trips into hospital for the supporter.

Supporters must wear a face covering / mask and use hand sanitiser when arriving and leaving the ward. Please wash your hands with soap and water regularly during your stay.

Only leave the induction of labour room, birthing room or recovery area if essential. The supporter should bring any food or drink for themselves, plus any food or drink the woman may wish for, in addition to hospital meals.

Please work with the healthcare staff to maintain social distancing, whenever possible.

After birth, it may be necessary for some women to stay on the postnatal ward. A single supporter can stay on the ward between 8.30am-8.30pm but will need to return home outside of these hours.

There are still some visiting restrictions on the wards. All visitors for maternity level 4 (Marsh / Iffley), apart from supporters / partners of women in induction of labour, must report to Iffley Ward on their arrival.

On the ward, a single named supporter can be with the woman from 8.30am to 8.30pm.

On the postnatal ward, the supporter is required to provide proof of a negative lateral flow test each day before visiting the ward. They need to provide a new test result each day. If the supporter tests positive for Coronavirus, they will not be able to visit the ward.

- All supporters should wear a face mask / covering and use hand gel.
- All supporters must stay in the room or at the bedside. Use the call bell if a member of staff is needed.
- Supporters must wash hands with soap and water before holding the baby and after nappy changes.
- Staff reserve the right to ask supporters to leave if they are unable to comply with the above.

The healthcare staff will be wearing protective equipment, such as face masks, aprons, gloves and visors.

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**Please speak to the midwife in charge for further information.**