

Safety measures for your elective Caesarean

We know that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been very concerning for everyone but as things start to get back to normal, it is time to resume our routine care and treatment. As it has been agreed for you to have an elective Caesarean birth, it is important that we ensure this happens safely for you, your family and for the staff caring for you. In line with government guidelines, patients having planned surgery will have to follow the additional instructions set out in this leaflet.

In order to go ahead with your elective (planned) Caesarean section:

- You must have **no** Coronavirus symptoms (high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change to smell or taste) for 14 days leading up to the date of your planned Caesarean.
- You must self-isolate for 14 days prior to the date of your surgery, along with all members of your household, if this is possible.
- Even if you or your household show no symptoms, you will be tested for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) 72-48 hours before your admission for surgery. This will be carried out at a Covid 19 'drive-thru' centre in the Royal Berkshire Hospital.
- Hand gel and hand-washing facilities are widely available throughout your hospital visit and we strongly encourage everyone to use this frequently.
- You will also be offered optional use of a (single-use) face mask.
- All planned surgery beds are located a safe distance from areas where Coronavirus patients are being nursed and all necessary safety precautions will be followed, including increased spacing between beds.
- The staff looking after you will be wearing Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) such as face masks, gloves and aprons.

While we are now moving towards 'business as usual' please be reassured that we are still committed to safety as a priority. Your understanding and co-operation with these measures to tackle spread of the Coronavirus is crucial, as we work together to provide a safe environment to deliver our healthcare services.

This document can be made available in other languages and formats upon request.

Lisa Court, Maternity ANC, July 2020. Review due: July 2022