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Thank you for your continued understanding and co-operation

We appreciate that this is a very worrying time for expectant parents. The care of you and your baby is our priority and we want to reassure you that we will do the very best that we can for you and your family.

Maternity care is essential and has been developed to reduce complications in women and babies. The risks of not attending antenatal care can include harm to you or your baby, even in the context of coronavirus. It is important that you keep in contact with your maternity team and continue to attend your appointments when you are well.

If you have symptoms of possible coronavirus infection, you should contact your midwife to postpone routine visits until after the isolation period is over.

If you have any immediate concerns about you or baby, please contact the Fetal Maternity Assessment Unit which is open 24 hours per day on **02894 424345** for Antrim and **02870 346128** for Causeway.

For general enquires related to your pregnancy, please contact the Pregnancy Helpline on **02894 424859 Monday to Friday 9-5.**

Covid-19 Vaccination

The Covid -19 vaccine is available to all pregnant/breastfeeding women. Your community midwife, or alternatively the pregnancy helpline will happily discuss the vaccine with you. More information can also be obtained from;

www.rcog.org.uk/covid-vaccine



Visiting information for pregnant women attending Maternity Services during COVID-19

Updated April 2022

Our Vision

To deliver excellent integrated services in partnership with our community

If you would like to give feedback on any of our services please contact:

Email: user.feedback@northerntrust.hscni.net

Telephone: 028 9442 4655



Northern Health and Social Care Trust



@NHSCTrust

www.northerntrust.hscni.net



Visiting guidance to Maternity Services has now been updated in line with Regional recommendations from the Department of Health.

Outpatients

You can be accompanied by your partner or nominated other to;

- a. Pregnancy related appointments and ultrasound scans
- b. Attendances to Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit
- c. Attendances to Fetal Maternal Assessment Unit

*Your partner will need to wait in the car and will be contacted when they are required to come in. This is to keep footfall to a minimum.

Inpatients

Visiting can be facilitated on the antenatal and postnatal wards, with the following principles in place:

- a. Twice daily visits from one of two nominated individuals (from up to two households) can be permitted, where this can be accommodated within COVID secure environments.

- b. If your birth partner/ nominated other becomes unwell or has symptoms of COVID-19, another person can be nominated
- c. Please check with staff on the ward regarding designated visiting times. Each visit is for a maximum of 2 hours.
- d. Alternatives, for example, outdoor visiting, virtual visits, should continue to be made available.

Labour and Birth

Having a trusted birth partner present throughout labour is known to make a significant difference to the safety and well-being of women in childbirth.

A chosen birth partner will be facilitated to accompany you for induction of labour, duration of labour and birth and for up to three hours after the birth. Unfortunately, the Induction of Labour Bay does not support 2m social distancing when fully occupied however, your individual circumstances and the number of women within the bay will be considered at the time.

General principles

- We would request that your partner/ visitor take a Lateral Flow Test prior to attendance at hospitals. Please do not attend if the test is positive and follow Department of Health guidance
- Some controls may need to be put in place by staff if departments become congested, to ensure a COVID safe environment.

- Children under the age of 16 will not be permitted to visit at this time. In the event of exceptional circumstances, please discuss with the midwife in charge.
- You will be offered a test for COVID-19 prior to a planned admission to hospital or at the point of an unscheduled admission.
- All people attending a Health and Care setting will be required to wear their own face coverings.
- Please arrive to your appointments at the specified time, to ensure people in waiting areas are kept to a minimum.
- A 2m social distancing rule must be observed, when possible.
- Please ensure you and your partner avail of hand washing facilities and hand sanitisers frequently, particularly when entering or exiting areas.
- Anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 should not accompany you, even if symptoms are mild and unconfirmed. In these circumstances, the individual should remain at home and follow the latest [public health advice on self-isolation and testing](#).

