

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 over many years to reduce complications in women and babies. The risks of not attending antenatal care include harm to you, your baby or both of you, even in the context of coronavirus. It is important that you keep in contact with your maternity team and continue to attend your scheduled routine care 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**

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

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



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Working Together



Excellence



Openness & Honesty



Compassion

We are currently in the medium surge phase of the COVID-19 Pandemic and in light of this our visiting guidance has been revised:

Outpatients

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

- a. 12-week dating scan
- b. 20- week anomaly scan
- c. Attendances to Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit
- d. Attendances to Fetal Maternal Assessment Unit

Your partner may be asked to wait in the car until your appointment. You will be asked to come alone to routine antenatal appointments and you can virtually include your partner via the telephone.

Inpatients

Visiting on the antenatal and postnatal wards is now restricted and the following principles apply:

- a. Your birth partner/nominated other will be allowed one visit only for duration of one hour during your stay on the antenatal/postnatal ward. If you have a prolonged stay this will be on a weekly basis.

- b. If your birth partner/ nominated other becomes unwell or has symptoms of COVID-19, another person can be nominated
- c. Visits to wards should be for a maximum duration of 1 hour. Any exception to this must be agreed with the midwife in charge.
- d. The time of this visit should be agreed with the midwife in charge.
- e. To reduce the spread of COVID-19, virtual visiting remains the preferred option and the wards will continue to support this.

Labour and Birth

During labour and birth, the presence of a birthing partner is permitted. Your birthing partner can accompany you into an individual room in Delivery Suite, when you are assessed by the Midwife and deemed to be in established labour. 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.

Your birth partner/ nominated other are not permitted to accompany you during induction of labour.

General principles

- The surge level may vary in a particular geographical area due to a cluster of cases. This visiting guidance may change relevant to the level of surge.

- 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. Also ensure correct personal hygiene measures.
- 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](#).

