



The Leeds
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Trust

Maternity care during the Coronavirus outbreak

Information for patients



Leeds
Maternity Care

This leaflet provides you with information regarding your maternity care during the Coronavirus outbreak.

For general and regularly updated information we recommend you visit:

<https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy>

It is expected that the majority of women who are exposed to the Coronavirus will experience only mild or moderate flu like symptoms.

Stay at home if you have a high temperature or new persistent cough, and follow guidance available at:

<https://111.nhs.uk/covid-19>

Only call 111 if you are not able to access the advice on-line

We understand that you will be worried about what Coronavirus means for you and your baby and we are doing all we can to keep you safe.

Please follow the Government advice

Stay at home:

- Only go outside for food, health reasons or work (where this absolutely cannot be done from home).
- Stay **two metres (6ft)** away from other people.
- **Wash your hands as soon as you get home.**

If you work in an essential service, as deemed by the Government, and you are less than 28 weeks pregnant, seek advice from your employer.

Community Midwifery Appointments

Booking appointments will be undertaken over the telephone. Your community midwife will arrange a long telephone conversation with you and will take lots of information and provide advice and guidance. She will also discuss screening tests for you and your baby, and ask for your consent for the ones you choose.

You will then be invited to attend a booking clinic where you will only have your blood pressure taken; a urine sample collected; you will be weighed and have any blood taken for any screening tests that you have requested. You will have your temperature checked and be asked about Coronavirus symptoms as you arrive. Please attend alone unless you need support from a carer/relative (for example, if you have a disability and need support).

If you have either a high temperature or a new persistent new cough please DO NOT ATTEND any appointment.

Your 16 week and 25 week appointments will also take place over the telephone

From 28 weeks onwards your appointments will be face to face. You will receive a phone call from a member of the team prior to your appointment. You will be asked if you or any members of your family have any symptoms of Coronavirus.

If you do, you will be advised to stay at home for a period of time and your midwife will give you further guidance. You will only be tested for Coronavirus if you become unwell and need to be admitted to hospital.

When you attend your appointment please come alone, at the allotted time. Partners and family members will not be allowed to enter the building unless you need support from a carer/relative (for example, if you have a disability and need support).

Hospital Appointments

If you are having shared care with an Obstetrician at the hospital you may need to attend your appointment - or you may receive a phone call from the Obstetrician.

If you are asked to attend the hospital antenatal clinic you will have your temperature checked and be asked about Coronavirus symptoms as you arrive. If you are found to have a temperature, you will be asked to go home immediately and will receive a telephone call from a doctor. Please attend alone unless you need support from a carer/relative (for example, if you have a disability and need support).

If you have either a high temperature or a new persistent new cough please DO NOT ATTEND any appointment.

Scans

If you have a scan appointment, please attend alone unless you need support from a carer/relative (for example, if you have a disability and need support), at the allotted time.

You will have your temperature checked and be asked about Coronavirus symptoms as you arrive. If you are found to have a temperature, your scan may be postponed and you may be asked to go home immediately and will receive a telephone call from a doctor.

If you have either a high temperature or a new persistent new cough please DO NOT ATTEND any appointment.

Urgent care

If your baby's pattern of movements changes or reduces in number, please call and speak to a Midwife promptly:

LGI on 0113 392 6731 or

St James's on 0113 206 5781

If you are advised to attend the Antenatal Day Care Unit or Maternity Assessment Centre, please attend **alone** unless you need support from a carer/relative (for example, if you have a disability and need support) at the allotted time. You will have your temperature checked and be asked about Coronavirus symptoms as you arrive.

Antenatal classes

Following Government advice, we have suspended all group sessions and will not be providing any Delivery Suite tours.

Care in labour

In labour, when you are ready to come to hospital, please call in advance. The midwife will ask you about your labour and some additional questions about your wellbeing and that of your family.

We will do everything we can to respect your birth choices. We have to limit you to one birth partner.

You will have your temperature checked and be asked about Coronavirus symptoms as you arrive.

In some circumstances our team are wearing additional protective clothing including face masks.

If you have symptoms of or confirmed Coronavirus you will be cared for in isolation with a team who have additional protective clothing - including face protection and eye wear. In an emergency this may cause a delay, staff are practising putting this equipment on at speed to reduce the impact of this on you and your baby.

Induction of labour

If you are booked to come into hospital for induction of labour you will be asked to call at a designated date/time in advance. The midwife will ask you about your labour and some additional questions about your wellbeing and that of your family. We have to limit you to one birth partner.

Planned caesarean sections

If you are booked to come into hospital for a planned caesarean section you will be asked to call at a designated date/time in advance. The midwife will ask you about your labour and some additional questions about your wellbeing and that of your family. We have to limit you to one birth partner.

Birth at home

If you have chosen to birth at home we would like to support your choice, as long as you are asymptomatic of Coronavirus and not in isolation with a symptomatic family member.

Women who are symptomatic of the Coronavirus are recommended to birth in an Obstetric Unit, where additional monitoring of maternal and baby wellbeing can be facilitated.

After your baby is born

Once your baby is born and as long as you and your baby are well, we will encourage you, with support, to go home as soon as possible.

Your care will be personalised to your needs and those of your baby. Baby screening tests will be arranged by your midwife. If you have symptoms of or confirmed Coronavirus you will be cared for in isolation with your baby, and the team will wear additional protective clothing. You will be encouraged and supported to breastfeed.

Should you need to stay in hospital, your partner will not be able to stay with you or visit you on the postnatal ward.

Registering the birth of your baby

The Registration of Births has been suspended temporarily until 30 April - please see more information available at:

<https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/births-deaths-and-marriages>

Leeds Maternity Coronavirus Advice Line

Tel: 0746 490 7978

This advice line is for women receiving Leeds Maternity Care, and for staff working for Leeds Teaching Hospitals, to answer any non-urgent questions relating to your pregnancy and your on-going care. A midwife will be available to answer the telephone line Monday to Friday 9am-5pm - please **DO NOT** text this number, you will not receive a response. You will not be able to leave a message.



What did you think of your care?

Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/nhsleedsfft

Your views matter



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