

Declaration of Commitment to Keeping You Safe

“Our philosophy of care is to put women and their families at the centre of our service. We aim to make every birth special and ensure your hopes and expectations are met in this special experience”.

Preparing for birth should be an exciting time and we can only imagine the stress and added anxiety that the current COVID-19 pandemic is having on you and your family. At Kingston Hospital Maternity Unit we are committed to keeping you, your baby and your family safe. We want to reassure you that our staff are following strict infection control measures as well as wearing the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce the risk of passing on infection to you. Due to the current public health concerns regarding COVID-19 we are having to re-think visiting in the Maternity Unit at Kingston Hospital and hope you understand why.

At Kingston we recognise that this is a special time for both you and your family. However, it is important that we keep all women, babies, birth partners and members of staff safe and we therefore ask you to commit to keeping us all safe.

If your birth partner has symptoms of COVID-19 or is self-isolating we must insist that they do not come into the Maternity Unit.

We are limiting visiting to the Antenatal Ward, Birthing Areas and Postnatal Ward to birth partners only, unless a second birth partner is essential to your care. We ask that you and your birth partner observe the following:

- Visiting is restricted to one birth partner at present, unless you have agreed with the Maternity Team in advance, that a second birth partner is essential for your maternity care. Swapping of birth partners is not possible.
- Whilst you are an inpatient in the Maternity Unit we ask that your birth partner self-isolates at home as much as possible when they are not visiting you in hospital.

Definition of Self-isolation as per Public Health England

“Do not leave your home for any reason other than coming to the Maternity Unit. If you need food or medicine, order them by phone or online, or ask someone else to drop them off at your home. Do not have visitors in your home. You can use your garden, if you have one, and any exercise should be taken at home.”



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- We ask that visiting be limited to once in a 24 hour period.
- Birth partners are able to stay on the Antenatal Ward, but we do encourage them to go home to rest and refresh overnight unless you are in early labour and they wish to stay.
- Postnatal Ward visiting for birth partners is 24 hours a day, but your birth partner can go home, rest and refresh overnight if they wish.
- Once in the Maternity Unit we ask that your birth partner stays with you, at your bedside, at all times, and they bring necessary refreshments for themselves. They should only leave and return again if it is essential.
- We ask that you clean your hands using the alcohol gel provided on arrival to the Maternity Unit, and then regularly with soap and water throughout your visit (as per NHS Guidance).
- Your birth partner will be asked to wear a surgical face mask on arrival to the Maternity Unit.
- Food will be brought to you by hospital staff and drinks offered regularly throughout the day. The hospital will not be providing meals and refreshments for birth partners.
- We ask that you do not help yourself from the tea/coffee trolley or water fountain.
- If your birth partner chooses to stay overnight on the Antenatal or Postnatal Ward, they must remain clothed (including footwear), whilst in the Maternity Unit. There are no facilities for birth partners to shower, but reclining chairs are available at the bedside in most ward areas. Reclining chairs within the Antenatal Ward are limited due to space around the bedside.
- When using the toilet we ask that hand hygiene rules are adhered to using soap and water.
- A social distance of 2 metres must be adhered to whenever possible between yourselves and staff.
- Please ask a member of staff if you have any questions about your birth partner accompanying you.

Thank you for observing the above and we hope that you and your birth partner have a memorable experience at Kingston Maternity Unit.



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