

Maternity care during the Coronavirus outbreak



Doncaster and Bassetlaw
Teaching Hospitals
NHS Foundation Trust

Maternity
Care



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This leaflet provides you with information regarding your maternity care during the Coronavirus outbreak (also referred to as Covid-19).

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 advised and 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.

Doncaster and Bassetlaw Maternity Coronavirus Advice Line

Tel: 01909 572227

This advice line is for women receiving Maternity Care, and for staff working for Doncaster and Bassetlaw 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 9am-5pm seven days a week.

Please **DO NOT** text this number, you will not receive a response. You will not be able to leave a message.

If you have any urgent pregnancy concerns please call maternity triage 24 hours a day on 01302 642711. If you want to speak to a community midwife please call the community hub number on 01302 642794 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Appointments - General Safety Information

If you have either a high temperature or a new persistent cough please let us know as advised below. DO NOT ATTEND any appointments; we will be in touch to reschedule.

Our team are wearing additional protective clothing including face masks for all patient contact within one metre.

Community Midwifery Appointments

Booking appointments will be undertaken over the telephone. Your community midwife will arrange a telephone conversation with you and will take lots of information and provide advice and guidance. It is very important that you are honest during these telephone consultations about any Coronavirus symptoms that you or family may have.

They 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 have your blood pressure taken, a urine sample collected, you will be weighed and you may have any blood taken for any screening tests that you have requested.

Please attend this appointment alone. In order to protect our patients, staff and visitors from the Coronavirus (Covid-19), we have restricted our visiting.

[Maternity Services](#)

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 24 hours 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.

The telephone consultation with your community midwife will also cover part of your antenatal check and is the opportunity for you to ask any questions. When you attend your appointment please come alone, at the allotted time. Partners and family members will not be allowed to enter the building.

Hospital Appointments

You will receive a text or a phone call the working day before your scheduled appointment where the midwife will advise you whether to attend for a face to face appointment or if it will be a phone consultation with the consultant.

If you have symptoms of Coronavirus please do not attend but phone the antenatal clinic on 01302 642817 to be advised by a midwife when to reschedule and any further guidance.

If you do need to attend a face to face hospital appointment please attend alone.

Scans

If you have a scan appointment, please attend alone at the allotted time. You will be asked about Coronavirus symptoms as you arrive.

If you have any symptoms your scan may be postponed and you may be asked to go home immediately and will receive a telephone call from a doctor.

Antenatal classes

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

Urgent Care

Please contact Triage on 01302 642711 if you have any urgent concerns.

Antenatal Assessment Unit

If you are advised to attend the Antenatal Day Care Unit please attend alone.

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

If you are booked to come into hospital for induction of labour

You will be contacted to arrange your induction date by a midwife. The midwife will ask you about your labour and some additional questions about your wellbeing and that of your family.

You will be asked to attend alone.

Your birth partner is welcome to attend once you are in established labour.

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.

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

We will do everything we can to respect your birth choices.

We have to limit you to one birth partner. If your chosen birth partner is self-isolating (including for other household members or a child with symptoms or who are symptomatic, they must not attend the labour ward. Please consider someone else as your birth partner.

[Maternity Services](#)

Our team are wearing additional protective clothing including face masks for all patient contact within one metre.

Although birth partners can be present for the birth, if you need transferring to a ward they will not be able to go with you.

Planned caesarean sections

If you are booked to come into hospital for a planned caesarean section you will be contacted by a midwife with the designated date/time in advance. The midwife will ask you some additional questions about your wellbeing and that of your family.

We have to limit you to one birth partner. If your chosen birth partner is self-isolating (including for other household members or a child with symptoms or who are symptomatic, they must not attend the labour ward. Please consider someone else as your birth partner.

All staff in theatre will wear protective equipment including masks and face coverings.

Although birth partners can be present in theatre for the birth, they will need to leave once you go to the ward.

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 arranged by your midwife.

If you have symptoms of or have 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 and there is no visiting on the postnatal ward.

Our team are wearing additional protective clothing including face masks for all patient contact within one metre.

Community Postnatal care

1st Day - You will be phoned by a community midwife on your first day home to have an over the phone postnatal consultation. If you or your midwife has any concerns they will arrange a home visit for you and baby.

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Day 3 - On day three if you are breastfeeding you will have a breastfeeding assessment over the phone. A visit will be arranged if required.

Day 5 - You will receive a phone call from a community midwife to check you and your family have no symptoms of corona virus. If you and your family are not symptomatic we will visit you at home to provide post-natal care, weigh your baby and offer the newborn heel prick screening test.

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Day 10-12 - You will receive a phone call to arrange a final home visit or community appointment to discharge you and your baby from maternity care if you are both well.

Further postnatal care will be arranged if required at any point.

If you have any urgent concerns about you or your baby please call maternity triage 24 hours a day on 01302 642711.

If you want to speak to a community midwife please call the community hub number on 01302 642794 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm.

Registering the birth of your baby

As a result of the COVID-19 virus and to protect staff and the community as much as possible, birth registration appointments have been suspended until the end of May.

However, parents can now make a claim for child benefit or universal credit prior to the birth being registered, where they have not previously been able to do so because of these measures.

How do I register my baby?

You must register your baby's birth within 42 days of the date of birth at Doncaster Register Office, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU.

Please be aware that you do not have to bring your baby to the appointment.

If your baby was born within the Doncaster district the birth needs to be registered at Doncaster Register Office, Civic Office, Waterdale, Doncaster, DN1 3BU.

There is an appointment system for the registration of births.

If you sadly need to register a still born baby, please call 01302 735222 to arrange an appointment.

If you are a same sex couple, please call 01302 735222 to book your appointment.

Apply online:

<https://www.doncaster.gov.uk/doitonline/register-a-birth>

Alternatively you can contact 01302 735222 to make the appointment.

Patient Advice & Liaison Service (PALS)

The team are available to help with any concerns, complaints or questions you may have about your experience at the Trust. Their office is in the Main Foyer (Gate 4) of Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Contact can be made either in person, by telephone or email.

The contact details are:

Telephone: 01302 642764 or 0800 028 8059

Email: dbth.pals.dbh@nhs.net

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