

COVID-19 Changes to Maternity Services

Due to the current global health situation with COVID-19 and our increasing need to protect our patients and staff, we have implemented some changes to maternity services at both Bedford Hospital and Luton and Dunstable University Hospital (L&D) sites.

This information is being reviewed on a daily basis and therefore could be subject to change which will always be for the safety of all concerned.

We know that during pregnancy, your birth and beyond are crucial times when women and their families need our support the most and we take great pride and commitment to provide safe, supportive and compassionate maternity care.

Antenatal Appointments

In order to ensure the health and safety of our patients and staff we unfortunately have to advise women that they need to attend **ALL** appointments on their own. This includes all ultrasounds appointments. Maternity staff are committed to giving you the best possible care during this incredibly difficult time and are sorry for the upset this will cause you and your families.

Postnatal Wards Visitors

In line with the Trust's guidance, partners and visitors are not allowed on our postnatal wards (Orchard Ward at Bedford and Ward 32 / Ward 33 at the L&D) until further notice. We know this will make it hard for some women and their families but we have to prioritise the safety of all at this time. Our great team of caring staff will do all they can to help you.

Women will not be alone, we are here for you.



Elective Caesarean Section

All elective C-Sections for clinical needs are **proceeding as normal** on both hospital sites. Elective C-Sections by maternal requests (where there is no clinical need) are being assessed on an individual case by case basis across both hospital sites.



Labour

Women can have one birthing partner to help provide that much needed extra support during established labour. Birthing partners must not attend if unwell, particularly if they have symptoms such as a temperature, headache, cough, breathing difficulties, or if they are self-isolating. If your birthing partner is unwell, you may nominate someone else to be with you in labour.

Induction of Labour

If you require an induction of labour, and you need to be admitted to the ward to start the induction process, your birthing partner is unable to stay with you while you're on the ward. We completely understand that this will be upsetting for our women but this is to help us keep everyone who uses our services as safe as possible. Once your labour is established or you're transferred to the delivery suite your birthing partner can join you. The midwives looking after you will advise you when you are ready for transfer to labour ward, so that your birthing partner can join you.



Useful contacts

Bedford Hospital

Day Assessment Unit: 01234 792060

Delivery suite: 01234 795805

Early pregnancy self-referral email:
Bhn-tr.communityancreferral@nhs.net

Search: Bedford Hospital Maternity Unit on Facebook

Luton and Dunstable University Hospital

Main triage number: 01582 502285



We know these changes are tough for you. These decisions have been made with the health and safety of patients and staff as our upmost priority. However, please do remember:

**We are here for you
You will not be alone.**