

Luton & Dunstable University Hospital
 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 Lewsey Road
 Luton
 LU4 0DZ

Bedford Hospital
 Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
 Kempston Road
 Bedford
 MK42 9DJ

27/10/2020

Dear Requester,

Thank you for your Freedom of Information request which was received within the Trust.

In accordance with S.1 (1) (a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), I can confirm **that we do hold the information relevant to your request. Number 089**

Response From Luton and Dunstable University Hospital

1. During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have you introduced new policies or practices to any of your services relating to maternity care (antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal) which either restrict or completely prohibit partners/parents/birth partners (referred to as ‘partners’ from now on) attending planned or unplanned care because of COVID-19? (Y/N)
 If yes, please go to Q2. If no, please go to Q6.
2. If restrictions have been introduced, please provide brief details of the policy (e.g. number of partners allowed to attend, length of time partners are allowed to attend for) in the relevant section(s) of the table below.

Type of service	Brief details of any restriction(s) introduced (e.g. partners banned altogether; restricted number of hours partners can attend for; or other relevant policy details).
Antenatal scans	Partners not currently permitted. Consideration given on a one to one basis for women with carers or other extenuating circumstances
Antenatal routine care (e.g.	Partners not currently permitted. Consideration given on a one to one basis for women with carers or other

midwife appointments)	extenuating circumstances
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)	Partners not currently permitted. Consideration given on a one to one basis for women with carers or other extenuating circumstances
Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour	Partners not currently permitted. Consideration given on a one to one basis for women with carers or other extenuating circumstances
Intrapartum care - homebirth	1 birthing partner permitted
Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit	NA
Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit	1 birthing partner permitted
Intrapartum care – consultant led unit	1 birthing partner permitted
Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre	1 birthing partner permitted
Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward	Partners not currently permitted. Consideration given on a one to one basis for women with carers or other extenuating circumstances
Community postnatal clinics	Partners not currently permitted. Consideration given on a one to one basis for women with carers or other extenuating circumstances

3. Do restrictions in place, or related policies/practice, include provision for extenuating circumstances (e.g. mental health conditions, disabilities, pre-term birth, or following deliveries with complications) (Y/N). If yes please provide brief details.

Yes. Where extenuating individual circumstances exist up to 2 birthing partners may be permitted. Where postnatal support is required woman will remain on delivery suite for as long as a bed is available to enable partner to stay.

4. Please indicate (Y/N) whether the restrictions detailed above were informed by:

- Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body)
- Engagement with service users
- Other (please provide brief details)

The measures above were informed by NHS England and RCOG. The local MVP has been fully engaged with discussions with us regarding restrictions.

Local infection rates have also informed our decision regarding visiting.

5. Are these restrictions still in place (Y/N)? If not, please provide the date/an estimate of the date when they were removed.

Restrictions continue to be in place and are reviewed weekly.

- Please provide details of any firm plans in place to introduce new restrictions on partner attendance at maternity services (e.g. in the event of a local lockdown, in the event of a major 2nd wave).

None currently agreed, being developed as per Trust response to Covid 2nd wave.

Bedford Hospital Response

During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have you introduced new policies or practices to any of your services relating to maternity care (antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal) which either restrict or completely prohibit partners/parents/birth partners (referred to as 'partners' from now on) attending planned or unplanned care because of COVID-19? (Y/N)

Yes

If yes, please go to Q2. If no, please go to Q6.

- If restrictions have been introduced, please provide brief details of the policy (e.g. number of partners allowed to attend, length of time partners are allowed to attend for) in the relevant section(s) of the table below.

Type of service	Brief details of any restriction(s) introduced (e.g. partners banned altogether; restricted number of hours partners can attend for; or other relevant policy details).
Antenatal scans	Patient to attend alone
Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)	Patient to attend alone
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)	Patient to attend alone
Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour	No partner permitted for IOL process until patient goes into labour. We only have partner for early labour if they need to remain on delivery suite. If they go to the antenatal ward, no partner is permitted.
Intrapartum care - homebirth	Service running as usual
Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit	1 birthing partner
Intrapartum care - alongside midwifery led unit	1 birthing partner

Intrapartum care – consultant led unit	1 birthing partner
Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre	1 birthing partner
Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward	No visitors / anyone to accompany patient to the ward
Community postnatal clinics	Patient to attend alone with baby

3. Do restrictions in place, or related policies/practice, include provision for extenuating circumstances (e.g. mental health conditions, disabilities, pre-term birth, or following deliveries with complications) (Y/N). If yes please provide brief details.

Yes – any case of extenuating circumstances will be looked at on an individual basis and treated accordingly

4. Please indicate (Y/N) whether the restrictions detailed above were informed by:

- Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body) –

Yes - Government guidance has been followed at all times in line with local policy and aligned with Luton & Dunstable.

- Engagement with service users

Planning for the impact of COVID on maternity services has been informed by regular teleconferences with the LMS, partners at Luton and Dunstable and the Regional maternity network. The Maternity Voices Partnership and Health watch Bedford have been involved at all times. There was a weekly meeting between the Heads of Midwifery, clinical directors, and lead clinicians in the LMS to facilitate this process.

- Other (please provide brief details)

5. Are these restrictions still in place (Y/N)? If not, please provide the date/an estimate of the date when they were removed.

Yes

6. Please provide details of any firm plans in place to introduce new restrictions on partner attendance at maternity services (e.g. in the event of a local lockdown, in the event of a major 2nd wave).

None agreed yet

This information is provided for your personal use and is the property of Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust and subject to any existing Intellectual Property and Database Rights. Any commercial application or use of this information may be subject to the provisions of the Re-use of Public Sector Information Regulations 2015 (RPSI). This means that if you wish to re-use the information provided for commercial purposes for any reason you must ask the Trust for permission to do so.

Please note that the Trust has a formal internal review and complaints process which is managed by the Information Governance Manager/Data Protection Officer. Should you have any concerns with our response, you can make a formal request for an internal review. Requests *for internal review* should be submitted within three months of the date of receipt of the response to your original letter, and should be addressed to:

Luton & Dunstable University Hospital
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Lewsey Road
Luton
LU4 0DZ

Bedford Hospital
Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Kempston Road
Bedford
MK42 9DJ

Or by emailing bhn-tr.foibedfordshirehospitals@nhs.net. This option is available to you for up to three calendar months from the date your response was issued.

If you are not satisfied with the Trust review under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 you may apply directly to the Information Commissioners Officer (ICO) for a review of your appeal decision. The ICO can be contacted at: ICO, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF
www.ico.org.uk

Yours sincerely,

IG/FOI Coordinator

Bedford Hospital, Kempston, Bedford
MK42 9DJ

Luton & Dunstable Hospital
Lewsey Road, Luton
LU4 0DZ