

9 June 2022

To all who are booked for maternity care at The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust (PAHT)

The visiting guidance to the maternity department at The Princess Alexandra Hospital has been updated. This is in response to the current Government guidance regarding COVID-19.

This is to ensure that we can continue to provide high quality care whilst keeping women, pregnant people, babies, their families and our people safe.

In line with maternity services across the country, we are managing staffing challenges. Ensuring all of our areas within the maternity department (maternity wards, Labour Ward, Birth Centre and the homebirth service) are adequately staffed to provide safe care to you and your baby may mean that on occasions we have to suspend part of the service. This could mean closing the Birth Centre or homebirth service. These are difficult decisions which are made following a review of all the different options, with an emphasis on the importance of choice for midwifery-led birth.

We are pleased to inform you that, working together with the Maternity Voices Partnership (MVP), visiting times have been reviewed and are now able to be extended. As of 8 June:

- We will be increasing the visiting times to 8am-8pm. This is for one support person, and swapping this person cannot be permitted. Your support person must endeavour to remain at the bedside as much as possible and face masks must be worn at all times in the ward areas
- We will also introduce a family hour between 4pm-5pm where siblings of your new baby can visit the department
- We will introduce unrestricted visiting on our antenatal ward (Chamberlen Ward) for one support person and review this after three months

For the most up-to-date visiting guidance, please go to www.pah.nhs.uk.

We ask families to support us in maintaining our service by not attending our maternity unit if they have tested positive or have symptoms of COVID-19. In addition to this, it is recommended that women and birthing people who have not



modern • integrated • outstanding

patient at heart • everyday excellence • creative collaboration

received their COVID-19 vaccination prior to pregnancy are vaccinated during pregnancy.

Our maternity service is here to support you during your pregnancy, labour and after the birth of your baby. Any changes to our services are made to ensure the safety of you, your loved ones and our people.

Thank you for your support.

Your sincerely,

Giuseppe Labriola

Director of midwifery

Chloe Ribeiro and Verity Noakes

Chairs, West Essex Maternity Voices Partnership

West Essex Maternity Voices Partnership

Facebook group:

https://www.facebook.com/groups/westessexmvp/?ref=share_group_link

Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/westessexmvp/>

Instagram:

<https://instagram.com/westessexmvp?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2Y=>

Email: westessexmvp@gmail.com



modern • integrated • outstanding

patient at heart • everyday excellence • creative collaboration