

# **COVID-19: Lateral flow antigen test in your pregnancy and for any support people attending with you.**

Congratulations on your pregnancy.

We are proud of the service we offer here at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust and we are passionate about the care and commitment we provide during your pregnancy. We will do all we can to keep you and all who attend with you as safe as possible from COVID-19

The Dudley Group understands the importance of women having the support of a partner or companion during key appointments and scans. We were pleased to be able to welcome support partners to all appointments and scans from Monday 19th April 2021 and this information provides an update on how we will be keeping our staff and other patients safe.

## **Measures in place to keep you, your baby, your supportive partner and our staff safe:**

- Twice weekly COVID-19 testing is recommended to all pregnant people – pregnancy means people are classed as vulnerable.
- All people attending an appointment are asked to take a COVID-19 test 24 hours prior to appointments.
- Face masks must be worn inside all Trust buildings and area available at entrances, along with hand sanitiser.
- We have made adjustments in our clinics to ensure social distancing is possible.

If you or your supportive partners are exempt from wearing a face mask then you will be offered a visor to wear. If you decline this we will ask you to wait outside the department and you will be called in for your appointment by the pager system. This follows requests from other pregnant people who are made to feel more vulnerable when surrounded by others who are not wearing a mask.

## **What is a support person?**

A support person is someone who is chosen by the pregnant person to provide emotional support to them at any of their appointments; this can be a different support person at different appointments if they choose.

This may be the baby's father or co-parent, but it does not need to be. What is important is that the support person is someone chosen by the pregnant woman to accompany her at different stages of her maternity journey.

This will remain the situation as long as the necessary safety measures can be met to ensure the safety of the pregnant person, the support person, other hospital users and staff.

## **Where can we get the tests from?**

Details of how to obtain lateral flow tests are available in the link below

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/testing/regular-rapid-coronavirus-tests-if-you-do-not-have-symptoms/>

## **How do I show the hospital the test results?**

When you arrive for your appointment you will both need to provide proof of a negative rapid coronavirus test that has been uploaded to the government test reporting system . [Report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result – GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Once your results are recorded, you should receive a text message and or an email confirming your result. You may have to show this result more than once during your appointment.

## **Waiting area**

Because the waiting area within our antenatal clinic is small, your partner will need to wait in their car or outside the hospital building, and we are using a pager system to call them when you are ready to be seen. We are asking partners not to wait in the hospital corridors.

## **If you have COVID-19 symptoms**

It's extremely important that if you have COVID-19 symptoms or are self-isolating, you **DO NOT** attend your appointment and contact your midwife or the maternity unit for advice.

## **Negative results**

If your test is negative, you can attend your appointment as usual. Please bring the confirmation text or your record of test results with you and the receptionist or midwife will check your test result on your arrival. Your appointment will then continue as planned.

## **Positive test results**

If you, or anyone accompanying you to your appointment, test positive using a home lateral flow test kit, you will need to isolate in line with the latest government guidance. Your appointment may need to be changed to a different time or later date.

If you have a positive lateral flow test at home, ring 01384 456111 ext 3360 to let the hospital know and rearrange your scan if possible.

The person who tests positive using a lateral flow test kit will have to access a PCR test by calling 119 or going online to arrange for this test. [Get a free PCR test to check if you have coronavirus \(COVID-19\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## **Previously positive PCR COVID-19 test.**

If you or your partner has had positive PCR COVID-19 test in the last 90 days you will not be able to undertake a lateral flow test for 90 days.

**Please call 01384 456111 ex 3020 if you have any questions or have had COVID-19 in the last 90 days.**

As with all appointments, we would ask that you please be prompt because if you are late it impacts on others being scanned. If you are more than 15 minutes late, you may be re-booked.

**Please be aware that children are not allowed into the department.**

**Thank you for your support in keeping everyone safe during this time.**