

## Guidance for Maternity Unit inpatients

### COVID-19: lateral flow antigen testing in your pregnancy and for any support person attending with you

If you are coming to the Maternity Unit to give birth, or to receive antenatal or postnatal inpatient care, we are now asking all birth partners and support people attending the Maternity Unit to undertake a lateral flow test for COVID-19 prior to attending.

#### What is a support person?

A support person is someone who is chosen by the pregnant person to be present for labour and birth, to provide emotional support to them. 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. Unfortunately, this person cannot be swapped during your stay.

#### 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 at the Maternity Unit on the second floor and check in with the security guard, your birth partner will need to provide proof of a negative rapid coronavirus test that has been uploaded to the government test reporting system.

You can report a COVID-19 rapid lateral flow test result via the link below:

<https://www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result>

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.

#### If your birth partner has COVID-19 symptoms

It is extremely important that if your birth partner has been diagnosed with COVID-19 during the last 10 days prior to attending the Maternity Unit, has active COVID-19 symptoms, or has been advised to self-isolate, they must **not** attend the hospital with you. Please inform triage of this via the telephone number 01384 456111 ext. 3053 before attending.

### **Negative results**

If your birth partner's test is negative, they can attend the hospital as usual. Please bring the confirmation text or your record of test results with you and the security guard, receptionist or midwife will check your test result on your arrival.

Anyone who tests positive using a lateral flow test kit will have to access a polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test by calling 119 or by going online to arrange for this test: <https://www.gov.uk/get-coronavirus-test>

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

If your birth partner has had a positive PCR COVID-19 test in the last 90 days, they will not be able to undertake a lateral flow test for 90 days. Please call 01384 456111 ext. 3020 if you have any questions.