

A Note to Obstetrical Patients and Support People During the COVID-19 Outbreak – Updated 6/15/2020

Welcome to Mount Auburn Hospital. Below is some important information about what to expect during your stay on Labor and Delivery and our Postpartum Units. **Our goal is to keep you and your family happy and healthy. In order to do that, we are taking extra steps to ensure your safety.**

Each patient may have two consistent support people present during labor and birth. It is important that your support person:

- ❖ Has been feeling well for the past 2 weeks
- ❖ Has been self-isolated for the past 2 weeks
- ❖ Wears a mask during the hospital stay
- ❖ Stays with you at all times in your hospital room, unless asked to separate from you for a medical procedure
- ❖ Cleans their hands often and does not touch their face
- ❖ **Although discouraged, support people may leave the unit and return. If support people leave the room, they should not congregate in common areas and are not permitted to be in the nutrition areas**

Following delivery, one support person of the patients' choice will be allowed to stay with the patient during their postpartum stay.

- ❖ **This support person will receive the second baby band. This person is permitted to leave and return but will be screened each time they return. This person is encouraged to limit the frequency of coming and going.**
- ❖ **No exchange allowed of the support person who will stay with the patient for the duration of their stay**
- ❖ **If the patient has 2 support people in labor, the additional support person will be encouraged to leave prior to transfer to the postpartum unit**
- ❖ **Additional visitors may be permitted once the patient is transferred to the postpartum unit only during specified visiting hours.**
- ❖ **Visitors will be permitted one at a time and encouraged to stay no more than an hour.**
- ❖ **Visitors are asked to call the patient once they arrive outside the facility. The patient will then notify the staff of their visitor's arrival.**
- ❖ **Visitors to our postpartum units will be screened at the main hospital entrance and given a visitor badge with date of visit identified. Visitors may be re-screened before entering the postpartum unit.**

When you arrive on Labor and Delivery, please bring all your necessities, **including a car seat**, with you. We will provide meals for you and your support.

We encourage all patients even if feeling well to be tested for COVID 19. In case of a scheduled admission (for example a planned cesarean delivery or induction of labor), your primary obstetric provider's office will arrange for you to have COVID 19 testing scheduled in an outpatient (ambulatory) testing site a few days before arrival to Labor and Delivery. **If you are not delivered by your due date, your providers office will also make arrangements for you to have COVID testing performed.** However, most people will have testing performed when they come to the hospital and the decision is made for admission. Testing for COVID-19 is performed by inserting a sterile swab into the back of the nasal (nose) passage. The swab can cause brief discomfort. Results may take up to 24 to 48 hours to return.

During your stay in the hospital, all patients and support people will be asked to wear a mask. You will also notice that all providers and staff will wear a mask and eye protection. If you have symptoms of COVID-19, your COVID-19 test is positive, or your medical needs otherwise require additional protection, healthcare providers may also wear **gowns and gloves**. If you test positive for COVID-19, we will provide you and your family with additional information about the disease and how to stay healthy and lower the likelihood of transmission to your baby and others.

We know that our care for you may look different than it has before, but we assure you this is needed for your safety, the health of your baby and your family, and for the protection of all patients and staff of Mount Auburn Hospital. Thank you for understanding.

Please discuss any questions or concerns you have with your obstetric provider. We look forward to caring for you in the near future.