

Safety measures for your elective Caesarean

We know that the Coronavirus (COVID-19) has been very concerning for everyone, but as things start to get back to normal, it is time to resume our routine care and treatment. As it has been agreed for you to have an elective (planned) Caesarean birth, it is important that we ensure this happens safely for you, your family and for the staff caring for you. In line with government guidelines, patients having planned surgery will have to follow the additional instructions set out in this leaflet.

What will happen?

In order to go ahead with your elective (planned) Caesarean section:

- You must complete a PCR test within 48-72 hours of your surgery (this will be arranged for you by the hospital).
- If you show symptoms of Covid-19 in the 7 days before your surgery, you must complete a lateral flow test (LFT). If this is positive, you must inform the hospital via the Triage line (**0118 322 7304**) so they can arrange some additional support for you and any additional care that you might need.
- If you are positive for Covid-19 at the time of your elective Caesarean, the team looking after you will review your notes and may postpone your Caesarean until you are out of your isolation period, if it is deemed safe to do so. If it is not safe to delay, we will continue with your Caesarean but additional measures will be put into place (we will inform you about what these are).
- You must complete a negative lateral flow test on the morning of your Caesarean, and bring evidence of this with you. If your test is positive, please stay at home and call the triage line who will advise you.
- Your birth partner must not be displaying any symptoms of Covid-19 and must present a negative lateral flow test on the morning of your planned Caesarean section. If they test positive, you should bring a different birth partner who tests negative.
- Hand gel and hand-washing facilities are widely available throughout your hospital visit and we strongly encourage everyone to use this frequently.
- You, and your birth partner, will be asked to wear a single use facemask unless exempt from doing so.
- All planned surgery beds are located a safe distance from areas where Covid-19 patients are being nursed and all necessary safety precautions will be followed, including increased spacing between beds.
- The staff looking after you will be wearing Protective Personal Equipment (PPE) such as facemasks, gloves and aprons.

While we are now moving towards 'business as usual', please be reassured that we are still committed to safety as a priority. Your understanding and co-operation with these measures to tackle spread of Covid-19 is crucial, as we work together to provide a safe environment to deliver our healthcare services.

Further information can be found via the Trust leaflet page at <https://www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk/leaflets-catalogue/>

To find out more about our Trust visit www.royalberkshire.nhs.uk

Please ask if you need this information in another language or format.

L Court, Maternity ANC, July 2020

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