

Ref: JP HOM/C19

Tel: 01432 364191

Date: 19 March 2020

Dear Mum-to-be & family

Continuation of Maternity Services during social distancing measures for COVID-19

We appreciate that this is a worrying time for you and your families. In Herefordshire the maternity services team has been working hard to plan how our services will continue to provide safe care during the COVID-19 outbreak.

We would like to assure you that we will continue to provide all our essential services, either face-to-face, via telephone or if possible by video call.

In line with the government recommendations, we are introducing measures to reduce the numbers of people attending the hospital and ensure social distancing occurs especially with pregnant women. We recommend that you attend face to face appointments as advised by your midwife.

If you feel you can attend hospital for your appointment on your own we recommend this, if this isn't possible then we are restricting individuals to bring only one friend or relative and no children under the age of 16 allowed.

Please note there maybe situations in a clinic setting where your friend or relative is asked wait outside the clinic room whilst your consultation takes place.

There will be no parent education or breastfeeding support sessions during this time, in line with government advice. We would recommend you access reputable sites for guidance on these matters, or contact your community midwife for advice.

Following the birth of your baby, we will aim to discharge you home within 24 hours to minimise the risks of exposure from other members of the public. We would ask you to make arrangements as soon as possible; so that once your discharge is planned there is no delay in leaving the ward area. After your discharge from hospital we will aim to complete all essential neonatal screening checks in the home or clinic setting with place of contact decided on an individual basis at the time.

If you have any concerns regarding yourself or your baby please ensure you make telephone contact with the 24 hour Triage service, (telephone number 07990 986517) or through your Community Midwives Office (telephone number 01432 372965).

The action outlined above is being taken to reduce numbers attending the hospital; including antenatal clinics, and enable us to protect you and your family as best as we can.

Glen Burley, Chief Executive

Russell Hardy, Chairman

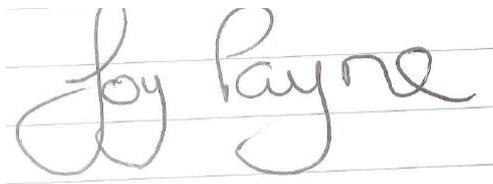
Further advice on social distancing measures can be found on the government internet page, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-guidance-on-social-distancing-and-for-vulnerable-people/guidance-on-social-distancing-for-everyone-in-the-uk-and-protecting-older-people-and-vulnerable-adults>

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) have guidance which is being regularly updated and can be found: <https://www.rcog.org.uk/en/guidelines-research-services/guidelines/coronavirus-pregnancy/covid-19-virus-infection-and-pregnancy/>

You will be aware from media coverage that advice and guidance is constantly changing as the situation and expert advice. We will be reviewing and updating our information as changes in guidance occurs. This will be available through the Trust website and also from your community midwife.

We would like to thank you for your support and cooperation during these challenging times.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink on a white background with horizontal lines. The signature reads "Joy Payne" in a cursive style.

Joy Payne
Interim Head of Midwifery
On behalf of the Maternity Team

Glen Burley, Chief Executive

Russell Hardy, Chairman