

MATERNITY PATIENT INFORMATION

COVID-19 FAQs

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Things may look different in areas of our maternity unit at the moment, but the same excellent care remains. We will continue to do all we can to support you before, during and after your baby's birth.

Please understand these protocols have been put in place to minimise the number of people coming and going within our unit and therefore reduce potential COVID-19 exposure to you and your baby. Rest assured, we will do everything we can to protect you and your family, our staff and doctors.

We have answered some of the most frequently asked questions (FAQs) about maternity and how we are caring for you during this time.

Do all expectant mothers need to undergo COVID-19 swab prior to delivery?

No. Swabbing is no longer required as per the Department of Health and Human Services guidelines.

Swabbing is only required if you are symptomatic.

What about my partner or support person?

No. The process for partners or support persons is the same as for expectant mothers.

COVID-19 swabbing is only required if you are symptomatic.

What if my partner or support person tests positive to COVID-19?

If your partner/support person tests positive to COVID-19 they will not be able to come to the hospital. You are very welcome to have a back-up support person on standby, in case that happens. Your back-up support person will also need to follow the same process of being tested and self-isolating.

What if I test positive for COVID-19?

If you test positive to COVID-19 and do not have any symptoms or have mild symptoms, you will still be able to be admitted to The Bays for the birth of your baby. You will however need to be isolated and the staff will care for you wearing full personal protective equipment, which includes a gown, gloves, mask and eyewear.



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What if I go into labour and I feel unwell?

If you become unwell with a fever or respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath), please visit your GP or Emergency Department and notify the hospital and your obstetrician.

If you are unwell and go into labour or need to come into maternity for any other reason, please ensure you alert the Midwives when you call. They will guide you through what to do next.

Can my partner or support person stay with me during my stay in both Birth-suite and Postnatal Ward?

Yes. Partners or nominated support persons are welcome with no time limit.

Can my partner/support person leave the hospital and come back?

Yes. Partners or nominated support persons are free to come and go from the hospital.

Will my support person and I be required to wear a mask?

Yes. You will both be required to wear a mask at all times outside of your room and also when staff are present in your room, with the exception being to you while you are in labour.

What if I become unwell while I am in hospital?

If you start showing signs and symptoms associated with COVID-19 while in hospital please alert your Midwife immediately.

Are you still providing antenatal education classes?

Our popular face to face Antenatal Education Program is currently suspended. However, we have developed a programme specifically focussing on the experience you will have at The Bays. You will be booked in for a live, two-hour online class, including a Q & A session with one of our experienced Midwives. These will be small groups so we can answer all of your questions in real time.

Will I be allowed to use the gas when I'm in labour?

Gas (Nitrous oxide) is still available for pain relief, just as long as you are not suspected or confirmed as having COVID-19.

If you happen to show any respiratory symptoms or are then confirmed as being positive for COVID-19, gas will not be available as a pain relief option. There will be other options available to you instead.



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Will I be guaranteed a private room?

Yes. All of our Maternity inpatients enjoy private room facilities and ensuite.

Will you still have Lactation Consultants available during and after my hospital stay?

All our Midwives and Lactation Consultants continue to provide a wonderful service to all of our new mothers.

If you would like to speak with one of our Lactation Consultants, please don't hesitate to speak with one of your Midwives whilst in hospital.

Where can I find out more information?

Victorian updates: coronavirus.gov.au

National updates: health.gov.au/news/latest-information-about-novel-coronavirus

If you are concerned please call the coronavirus hotline 1800 675 398

