

## **Women's and Children's Health Program Information for the Support Person to the Birthing Unit and the Postpartum Unit**

- Everyone is screened prior to entering the hospital regarding symptoms and contact within your home and community.
- If a support person does not pass screening, further discussion regarding their ability to visit must be had with management and Infection Prevention and Control prior to their entry to the hospital.
- Patients and Support People must wear a mask at all times while in hospital. Support people are also provided a face shield which they must wear at all times.
- Even if you come with your own mask, you will be asked to remove it and replace with a clean one provided upon arrival by our screening team. We have clean paper bags for the storage and protection of your mask.
- Once in the hospital there is to be minimal "ins and outs", and you are not able to move around within the hospital. Please plan your visits or stays accordingly

### **Outpatient appointment**

- If the patient is coming in for assessment or treatment as an outpatient (e.g., cervical ripening, ultrasound, etc.):
  - Support people are not permitted
  - You may wish to drop the patient off at the Main Entrance and have them call you when they are ready to go home. Staff should be able to provide an approximate amount of time for the specific appointment once the patient arrives to the unit.

### **Birthing Unit – labour assessment, pre-admission**

- When you first arrive, only the patient will be allowed to enter the hospital. Support people are asked to be available by phone.
- If the patient is not admitted, they or their nurse will call you to come back to pick them up.

*Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe*

### **Birthing Unit - Admission**

- If the patient is admitted, you will be called to join them.
- Only one (1) support person is permitted for each patient at this time.
- Support people must enter through the main entrance, be screened upon entry and then will be brought to a waiting area where one of the Obstetrics team members will meet them to bring them to the patient room.
- Approved support people will receive a red arm band
- For short stays, we ask that patients and their supports do not eat while on the units, as eating requires temporary removal of masks.
- For extended stays, eating must occur in designated areas in your patient room, where strict hand hygiene, minimal time with mask and faceshield removed, and cleaning of the area once mask and faceshield is put back on. Ask your nurse if you have questions or concerns.
- Cold boxed meals (sandwich, drink and snack) will be provided to patients and support people in the birthing unit upon request, for those who are staying beyond a meal time. This is a temporary courtesy for our patients and support people during the pandemic, as you are encouraged to stay in your patient room. We encourage patients and support people to bring their own food if they have dietary preferences, or food allergies.

### **Postpartum Unit**

- Once baby is delivered and post-delivery care has occurred, the patient and the support person will be moved to the postpartum unit
- Red-banded support people are welcome to stay in the postpartum patient room for the duration of patient's stay. (only one (1) support person permitted.)
- If baby requires care in the Special Care Nursery, birth parent and red-banded support person are able to visit baby in the nursery. One (1) visitor is permitted in the nursery at a time.

**Please call 519-621-2333 ext. 4300 to speak to an OB team member for updates on the patient's status** *\*\*patient's permission is required for any sharing of health information.*

*Any questions or concerns regarding this guideline can be brought to the attention of the charge nurse for consideration.*

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