

Ref: FOIA Reference 2020/21-195

Date: 8<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Email [foi@uhnm.nhs.uk](mailto:foi@uhnm.nhs.uk)

Dear

I am writing in response to your email dated 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 requesting information under the Freedom of Information Act (2000) regarding Covid - maternity

As of 1<sup>st</sup> November 2014 University Hospitals of North Midlands NHS Trust (UHNM) manages two hospital sites – Royal Stoke University Hospital, and County Hospital (Stafford). Therefore the response below is for the two sites combined from that date where appropriate.

**Q1 During the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic have you introduced new policies or practices to any of your services relating to maternity care (antenatal, intrapartum, postnatal) which either restrict or completely prohibit partners/parents/birth partners (referred to as ‘partners’ from now on) attending planned or unplanned care because of COVID-19? (Y/N)**

**If yes, please go to Q2. If no, please go to Q6.**

A1 Yes

**Q2 If restrictions have been introduced, please provide brief details of the policy (e.g. number of partners allowed to attend, length of time partners are allowed to attend for) in the relevant section(s) of the table below.**

Type of service	Brief details of any restriction(s) introduced (e.g. partners banned altogether; restricted number of hours partners can attend for; or other relevant policy details).
Antenatal scans	
Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)	
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)	

<b>Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour</b>	
<b>Intrapartum care - homebirth</b>	
<b>Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit</b>	
<b>Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit</b>	
<b>Intrapartum care – consultant led unit</b>	
<b>Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre</b>	
<b>Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward</b>	
<b>Community postnatal clinics</b>	

A2 Please see below:

Type of service	Brief details of any restriction(s) introduced (e.g. partners banned altogether; restricted number of hours partners can attend for; or other relevant policy details).
Antenatal scans	Partners not allowed at this time
Antenatal routine care (e.g. midwife appointments)	Partners not allowed at this time
Antenatal, non-routine care (e.g. assessment for reduced foetal movements)	Partners not allowed at this time

Admission for induction of labour or latent phase of labour	Partners not allowed at this time
Intrapartum care - homebirth	No change
Intrapartum care - freestanding midwifery led unit	Not applicable
Intrapartum care – alongside midwifery led unit	One partner permitted
Intrapartum care – consultant led unit	One partner permitted
Intrapartum care – delivery in theatre	One partner permitted
Postnatal care – post birth and on the postnatal ward	Partners not allowed at this time
Community postnatal clinics	Partners not allowed at this time

**Q3 Do restrictions in place, or related policies/practice, include provision for extenuating circumstances (e.g. mental health conditions, disabilities, pre-term birth, or following deliveries with complications) (Y/N). If yes please provide brief details.**

A3 All extenuating circumstances are reviewed on an individual basis and discussed with family concerned

**Q4 Please indicate (Y/N) whether the restrictions detailed above were informed by:**

- **Guidance issued by a professional body (please detail which body)**
- **Engagement with service users**
- **Other (please provide brief details)**

- A4 COVID 19 Impact on Care Provision  
NHS England published guidance in March 2020 stating that:  
Visiting is suspended with immediate effect until further notice  
The only exceptional circumstances where one visitor – an immediate family member or carer will be permitted to visit are listed below:
- The patient you wish to visit is recovery end of life
  - You are the birthing partner accompanying a woman in labour
  - You are the parent or appropriate adult visiting a child

**Q5 Are these restrictions still in place (Y/N)? If not, please provide the date/an estimate of the date when they were removed.**

A5 Partners are permitted 1 hour of visiting on postnatal wards

**Q6 Please provide details of any firm plans in place to introduce new restrictions on partner attendance at maternity services (e.g. in the event of a local lockdown, in the event of a major 2nd wave).**

A6 In the event of a second wave it would be anticipated there would be national guidance which we would follow. Local lockdown would be considered along with the Trust Board regarding any further or additional restrictions

\*Please note that any individuals identified do not give consent for their personal data to be processed for the purposes of direct marketing.

***UHNM NHS Trust is a public sector body and governed by EU law. FOI requestors should note that any new Trust requirements over the EU threshold will be subject to these regulations and will be advertised for open competition accordingly.***

Where the Trust owns the copyright in information provided, you may re-use the information in line with the conditions set out in the Open Government Licence v3 which is available at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3/>. Where information was created by third parties, you should contact them directly for permission to re-use the information.

An anonymised copy of this request can be found on the Trust's disclosure log, please note that all requests can be found at the following link: <http://www.uhnm.nhs.uk/aboutus/Statutory-Policies-and-Procedures/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-Disclosure-Log.aspx>

This letter confirms the completion of this request. A log of this request and a copy of this letter will be held by the Trust.

If you have any queries related to the response provided please in the first instance contact my office.

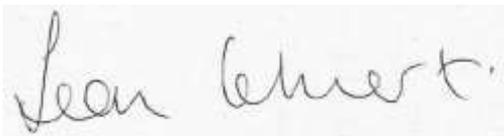
Should you have a complaint about the response or the handling of your request, please also contact my office to request a review of this. If having exhausted the Trust's FOIA complaints process you are still not satisfied, you are entitled to approach the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) and request an assessment of the manner in which the Trust has managed your request.

The Information Commissioner may be contacted at:

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF or via [www.ico.org.uk](http://www.ico.org.uk).

If following review of the responses I can be of any further assistance please contact my secretary on 01782 671612.

Yours,



Jean Lehnert  
**Data, Security & Protection Manager**