

## Testing Women Attending for Maternity Care for COVID-19

In response to the most up to date information from Public Health England we are now offering testing for COVID-19 to all women who are admitted to the maternity service in labour and those who need to stay as an inpatient on the maternity ward. This is so that we can identify women who have COVID-19 but who may not have symptoms so that we can offer the most appropriate care and prevent the virus from spreading.

### How is the test performed?

The test involves a swab being taken from the back of your throat and nose. This is then sent to the laboratory to be processed. The results are usually available within 24 hours

If you remain as a patient in the hospital after 5 days following your initial admission the swab test will need to be repeated.

### How will having the test affect my care?

If you do not have any symptoms, having the test done will not affect your care or where you can give birth. Care will be provided as usual until the results of your test are available. If your result is negative then we will continue to provide care for you as usual. If the result comes back positive then we will arrange for you to be cared for in a specific clinical area until you are ready to go home. Any planned inductions will not be postponed if clinically indicated.

Women who are positive for COVID-19 are not able to use the birthing pool. This is the same for women who have symptoms or who are self-isolating because they have been in contact with a household member who is symptomatic or positive for COVID-19

### What happens if I have had a positive result previously but then need to be readmitted?

If you have a positive test but you are not experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19 and are still not experiencing any symptoms when discharged you don't need another test to check if the virus has gone. You should self-isolate for 7 days. If you need to be readmitted you will be tested again.

- If this is within 7 days of the positive result, you will be cared for in a specific area of the maternity unit because you are in your self-isolation period.
- If this is within 7-14 days of the previous positive result, you will be cared for in a specific area of the maternity unit whilst you wait for the results of your swab. Even though you may not be particularly infectious during this time period, swabs can end up being positive.
- If you are readmitted after 14 days and don't have any symptoms and have no health issues that affect your immune system, then you will be cared for as normal.
- If you are readmitted after 14 days and you have any health problems that affect your immune system then we will care for you in a specific area of the maternity unit whilst you wait for the results of your swab.

## What should I do if I have a positive swab and no symptoms?

You need to self-isolate at home for 7 days. If you develop symptoms then you should self-isolate for at least 7 days from the start of your symptoms or until those symptoms have gone. If you are concerned about the symptoms then you should look at the information on [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) to check for symptoms, and get advice from the 111 online services.

If you have concerns about your pregnancy, or your health or that of your baby if you have given birth, that is not related to COVID-19 then please contact Maternity Triage: 01282 804213

## Contact details

Should you require further advice or information please speak to your midwife or contact: Maternity triage on 01282 802413