

Your Delivery and Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Congratulations on your pregnancy and thank you for trusting Hartford Healthcare to care for you and your baby. We are taking the necessary steps during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure your new family's safety.

This includes certain actions that the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) has declared necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

These safety measures include:

- COVID-19 symptom screening at all hospital entrances
- Visitor restrictions including symptom checks every 12 hours
- Wearing face masks at all times while in the hospital
- Washing your hands with soap and water at least 20 seconds before and after touching your baby.

*What Can I Expect for Myself?

Hartford Healthcare is performing COVID-19 testing for:

- all patients admitted to Labor and Delivery
- all patients who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during their hospitalization

If you test positive and are not having symptoms of COVID-19, you may have a support person with you during your hospital stay. Your healthcare team will provide you with the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) and review how and when to wear it.

If you test positive and are having symptoms of COVID-19, you may have a support person with you through labor and birth, but they must go home after the baby is born.

*If you have been diagnosed with COVID-19 before your admission to Labor & Delivery, please contact your provider to discuss repeat testing and the time frame that you may be considered recovered.

What Can I Expect for My Baby?

Please bring in your infant car seat placed in a plastic bag along with baby clothes at the time of your delivery. This will reduce the need for your support person to leave the hospital and gather necessary items for your baby to go home.

If you have been diagnosed or have symptoms of COVID-19, the healthcare team will review your medical history, test results, and symptoms to make recommendations for the care of your baby in the hospital.

These recommendations may include that your baby be separated from you after birth to keep your baby safe from illness. We may also test your baby after birth to make sure your baby is healthy and/or advise that you wear your face mask when caring for your newborn, in addition to washing your hands regularly.

Breast milk is the most nutritionally perfect food you can give your baby. If you are ill, we may recommend that you pump your milk in order for a healthy caregiver to feed the baby until you are feeling better.

We will also teach you about how to keep your baby as safe as possible if the baby is in your hospital room and in your home after discharge.

*What Can My Support Person Expect?

If you test positive for COVID-19, your designated support person **will be required to wear PPE** that your healthcare team will supply and review with them. Failure in using the required PPE will result in the support person being asked to leave and not allowed to return.

A temperature will be taken and a COVID-19 symptom review check will be performed every 12 hours. (asking if they are experiencing shortness of breath, fever, body aches, sore throat, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, etc.). We will ask your support person to go home if they develop COVID-19 symptoms.

*If your support person has tested positive for COVID-19 before your admission, please reach out to your healthcare provider so we can determine a safe plan to care for you and your baby.

Keeping you and your family safe is Hartford Healthcare's number one priority!