

Support Person/Visitor Policy for Labor and Delivery and Obstetric Inpatient Units

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have temporary policies in place in order to keep everyone safe. This includes policies for support persons/visitors for all of our patients who receive pregnancy-related inpatient care at BIDMC. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

Labor and Delivery

- All patients admitted to the Labor & Delivery unit may have **one or two healthy support person(s)**. Support persons should self-isolate for 14 days prior to arrival.
- Support persons **must stay with you** at all times in your hospital room, unless requested to do otherwise by hospital staff. Support persons may order hospital meals.
- Support persons in Labor & Delivery **must be 18 years old** or over. They must wear a BIDMC-issued surgical mask. Masks must be worn even if the person has received the COVID-19 vaccination.

Post-partum Units

- All patients may have **one continuous support person** in their room on the postpartum unit. This person should stay with you at all times in your hospital room, unless requested to do otherwise by hospital staff. They must wear a hospital-provided surgical mask. The support person may order hospital meals.
- Post-partum patients who have had a negative test for COVID-19 may have **one additional healthy visitor per day**, following the regular hospital policies. Hours are noon – 7 pm.
- Post-partum patients who **have or may have COVID-19** may only have one continuous support person throughout their stay; they may not have any other visitors.

Antepartum inpatient stay

- Pregnant patients who are admitted to the hospital, but are not on the Labor and Delivery unit, and who have had a negative test for COVID-19 shortly before or after admission, may have **one healthy visitor each day** according to regular hospital visiting policies. Visitors must wear a mask, even if they are vaccinated. Hours are noon – 7 pm.
- Antepartum patients who **have or may have COVID-19** may not have visitors.

Applies to all areas

All support persons and visitors in any area must:

- **Be screened** before entering. If the support person/visitor has signs of COVID-19, they will be asked to isolate at home right away. The patient may designate someone else in their place.
- **Wear a hospital-issued surgical mask** at all times, even if vaccinated against COVID-19.
- **Clean hands** frequently.
- **Be at least 18 years old**, unless they are visiting a parent or sibling and are at least 12 years old.
- Stay in the patient's room; **may not go to cafeteria or other areas** of the hospital.