

## 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 patients who receive pregnancy-related inpatient care at BIDMC. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

### Labor & Delivery

- All patients admitted to the Labor & Delivery unit may have **one healthy support person** with them in L & D. This same person may be with the patient **throughout their stay**.
- **A second healthy support person** is allowed in L & D, unless the patient tests positive for COVID-19. If the patient has COVID-19, a second support person is not allowed.
- If the patient is having a cesarean delivery (C-section), **one** person may be able to go into the operating room, depending on clinical circumstances.
- The support person(s) should stay in the patient's room. As much as possible, they should not leave the unit and come back. Support persons may order hospital meals. If the patient is positive for COVID-19, the support person may not leave the hospital and come back.

### Post-partum units

- **One healthy support person only** is allowed. This should be the same support person that was with the patient in L & D. As much as possible, the person should stay in the room and not leave the unit and come back. The support person may order hospital meals. If the patient is positive for COVID-19, the support person may not leave the hospital and come back.

### Antepartum

- **One healthy support person only** is allowed if the patient is **not** positive for COVID-19. As much as possible, the person should stay in the room and not leave the unit and come back. The support person may order hospital meals.
- If the patient is positive for COVID-19, a support person is not allowed.

### Applies to all areas

All support persons must:

- **Be screened** before entering. If the support person 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 mask** at all times.
- **Wash hands** frequently.
- Be **at least 18 years old**. In some cases, a support person between the ages of 12 and 17 is allowed, but this person must be accompanied by someone who is at least 18 years old.

*We know limiting visitors is difficult. We invite you to stay in touch with family and friends using calls and video chats. Guest Wifi is available. A tablet may be borrowed for video calls if you do not have a device.*