

# Partners/companions visits to our ultrasound departments for pregnancy scans

## Information for women

This leaflet explains the changes to visiting in the ultrasound scan departments at the Royal Free London Trust. If you would like further information, or have any concerns, please don't hesitate to ask your midwife or nurse.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in line with national recommendations, the ultrasound departments at the Royal Free London ceased all non-essential visiting in March 2020. These arrangements were put in place to help prevent the spread of infection and to protect our patients, visitors, and staff.

We recognise the importance of partners/companions being able to attend antenatal scan appointments and the beneficial impact this has on women. One partner/companion can accompany a woman to all antenatal ultrasound scans and all scans taking place in the early pregnancy units.

We appreciate that this has been a very difficult time for women and their partners, and we have been undertaking an on-going risk assessment of these arrangements across our ultrasound services.

Unfortunately, children are not permitted at the current time.

## Covid-19: symptoms

If a partner/companion has any of the following symptoms, can they speak with a member of the Ultrasound department staff.

- High temperature or fever - this means you feel hot to touch on your chest or back (temperature measurement not needed)
- New, continuous cough - this means coughing a lot for more than an hour, or three or more coughing episodes in 24 hours. If you normally have a cough, it may be worse than usual.
- Any other new respiratory symptoms (upper and lower respiratory tract) e.g., breathlessness, sore throat, runny nose etc.

- 'Influenza-like' symptoms, for example, feeling abnormally tired with generalised muscle aches and/or headache.
- A loss or alteration to taste or smell.
- Do any members of your household have suspected symptoms or confirmed COVID-19 (in the last 10 days)?

### **Inside the ultrasound room**

- The partner/companion must sit in a designated area.
- A face covering must be always worn.
- The duration of the scan will be kept as short as possible. Questions will be welcomed at the end of the scan.
- One free thermal image of the baby will be issued. No photography/videos are allowed during the examination.
- In the event of unexpected findings, the woman and partner/companion will be directed to our counselling room where any necessary arrangements of support will be made.

### **Contact us**

#### **Barnet Hospital**

Ultrasound Department: 020 8216 4600 and ask for extension 50860.

#### **Chase Farm Hospital**

Obstetric ultrasound enquires: 020 8375 1979.

#### **Royal Free Hospital**

Maternity Matron Bleepholder: telephone 0207 794 0500 and ask for extension 64339.

### **More information**

For more information about the maternity service at the Royal Free London, please visit our website: [www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/maternity-services](http://www.royalfree.nhs.uk/services/services-a-z/maternity-services).

### **Your feedback**

If you have any feedback on this leaflet or for a list of references for it, please email: [rf.communications@nhs.net](mailto:rf.communications@nhs.net)

### **Alternative formats**

This leaflet is also available in large print. If you need this leaflet in another format – for example Braille, a language other than English or audio – please speak to a member of staff.

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