

Expecting a new baby is a joyful time, and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Brigham and Women's Hospital is doing everything possible to provide you with the best and safest care during the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

We have made some temporary changes to our typical routines to keep you and your family safe. These practices are in place to help protect our patients and our staff during this pandemic.

Before Coming to the Hospital

You should receive a call from your Doctor or Midwife within 24 hours of your scheduled induction or cesarean section. If you are in labor, call the office or on call doctor as you have been previously instructed. They will ask you about any symptoms you or your support person are experiencing before you come to the hospital, so we can be prepared to provide you the safest care.

Patients coming to the hospital for active labor and birth may have one support person. Your support person must be well (no symptoms of upper respiratory tract infection, fever, cough, muscle aches or nasal congestion). If they do not feel well, they must stay home, and you should identify a healthy support person to be with you in the hospital.

If you are coming to the hospital for care in OB Triage (i.e. assessment of labor, cervical ripening, fetal check, etc.), you may not have a support person. This area is considered an outpatient area; thus, no visitors are allowed.

We recommend you and your support person bring clothes, toiletries, electronic devices and snacks to decrease the need to leave and re-enter the hospital.

Arrival at the Hospital

When you come in to the hospital for labor, we encourage you to have one consistent support person with you. Both you and your support person will be screened at the main hospital entrance (75 Francis Street), then proceed to OB admitting together, and then come to Labor and Delivery.

If you are coming in for a scheduled delivery (induction of labor or cesarean delivery) your support person may come directly in with you and will be screened on entering the hospital. In some cases, such as for assessment of labor, your support person may be asked to wait to enter the hospital until it has been determined that you are in labor. When you are admitted to a room on labor and delivery, your support person will be able to join you.

If you have any symptoms or are known to have COVID-19, special arrangements will be made for your arrival to the hospital, admission to Labor and Delivery, and throughout your care experience to help protect you, your baby, and our staff during this pandemic.

All support persons will be asked about symptoms every time they enter the hospital.

Please bring your car seat with you when you come in to have your baby, as well as any other items you would like for yourself or your baby while in the hospital.

Hospital Experience

We ask that your support person stay in your patient room for the duration of your stay. The nursing staff will gladly bring you water, juice, crackers, etc. from the nourishment center.

Your support person will be allowed to order a guest meal tray, but you are encouraged to bring any snacks or food you would like to have during your stay. Food delivery to the hospital is not permitted at this time.

If your support person needs to leave the hospital, such as for work, they will be allowed to re-enter, but will be re-screened in the lobby area. We ask that you keep exits and entrances to a minimum. At this time, no siblings or additional visitors will be allowed at the hospital.

Please keep your baby in the room with you as much as possible. We are able to provide most routine newborn care in your room. Circumcision is done in a special area of the nursery away from other babies.

Good practice is to always wash your hands for 20 seconds, and this is even more critical during this time. You should always wash your hands before caring for your new baby.

You will notice that all staff, patients, and visitors in the hospital are now wearing masks. This is being done to help decrease community spread of the virus.

Contact Us

Please don't hesitate to reach out to your OB care provider if you have any questions or concerns.

Visit the [Brigham Health Hub blog](#) for answers to common questions about Pregnancy and COVID-19.

We look forward to providing a supportive and safe environment for you and your baby.

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