

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing For Women and Support Partners Accessing Maternity Services

Screening for COVID-19 to keep women, other patients, visitors and staff at the Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust safe.

The Trust is asking all pregnant women and their nominated support person to undertake twice weekly LFD tests at home. This will enable a nominated support person to attend maternity appointments with you. When you and your nominated support person attend for any appointment you will be asked a number of screening questions about symptoms of COVID-19 and also asked to show evidence of your latest negative LFD result (text or email).

Lateral Flow Device Test

LFD tests must only be used if you have no symptoms of COVID-19. These can be obtained freely. Please follow the link below to find the nearest location to collect a test pack:

<https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>

LFD tests are quick and simple to complete. The test strip looks similar to a pregnancy test and provides a result within 30 minutes. Each test pack comes with a set of instructions. Once you have the result, you will need to register it immediately with the Government results service. This can be accessed via:

www.gov.uk/report-covid19-result

This will then generate an email and text message which provides a copy of your result that you can show when attending for appointments. Please contact your midwifery team if you do not have access to technology to enable you to register your results.

Nominated Support Person

With a COVID-19 negative result and no symptoms of COVID-19 your support person will be able to accompany you to:

- Maternity Ultrasound Scans, including growth scans and rescans
- Midwifery / Consultant Appointments in Antenatal Clinic at Royal Devon and Exeter (Wonford) Hospital
- Antenatal/Postnatal appointments within community settings – please note this may be subject to adequate waiting space within certain settings and the support person may be asked to wait in their car/outside.
- Antenatal/Postnatal ward
 - Induction of Labour- between the hours of 0800-2000 and if further support needed
 - Postnatal- one support person during one of the allocated time slots
- Labour - one support person for the duration of labour on labour ward/birth centre.

Other information

- Face coverings must be worn at all times whilst attending appointments (unless exempt) and hands should be cleaned with alcohol gel/washed regularly.
- You may be required to wear additional personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Children are not permitted to attend any of the maternity settings.

FAQs:

Who do we mean by 'support partner'?

The support person may be the baby's father or co-parent, but it does not need to be. What is important is that the support person is someone chosen by the woman to accompany her at different stages of her maternity journey. Support people are not 'visitors' because they carry out a support role.

When should the test be done?

It should be done within 24hrs of your appointment. The Government is encouraging everyone to test using LFD twice a week.

What happens if a woman declines to do a test?

Care will continue with appropriate infection prevention and control measures including use of PPE and social distancing.

What happens if the support person declines to do a test?

If the support person declines the test, access to accompany the woman to their antenatal appointment will be made on a case-by-case basis. If it is not possible to decrease the risks of transmission in other ways eg safe social distancing and PPE then the support person may not be able to accompany the woman at that appointment.

What happens if the woman gets a positive result?

Where a woman tests positive for COVID-19 in advance of an antenatal appointment they should contact maternity services on: 01392 406616

What happens if the support person gets a positive result?

The support person should isolate as set out in **government guidance**. The woman can then select an alternative support person who has not tested positive to COVID-19.

Does a LFD test still need to be done after vaccination?

Yes, women and their support partners should continue to test even if they have had the vaccine.

Is the test mandatory or voluntary?

Tests are voluntary, but women and their support partners are strongly encouraged to test to help keep themselves and the hospital safe for all

The Trust cannot accept any responsibility for the accuracy of the information given if the leaflet is not used by RD&E staff undertaking procedures at the RD&E hospitals.

© Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust

Designed by Graphics (Print & Design), RD&E