



Birthing Center COVID-19 Protocol

At Bassett Birthing Center the safety of you and your baby is our number one priority! While we understand these are challenging times, we want your birth experience to be special, all while maintaining safety for your baby, family, and staff. Use of Facetime, Skype, or other means of virtual communication may offer extended family and friends the opportunity to meet your newest member of the family.

Visitation:

Visitation for the Birthing Center is as follows:

1. Patients will be allowed to identify two support persons at the time of admission, and a certified doula upon request. Only one support person will be allowed to remain overnight following delivery. The second support person and/or the certified doula will be allowed on the unit from 9 am to 9 pm each postpartum day.
2. Support persons and/or the certified doula will be allowed to leave the birthing center and return as needed.
3. Identified support persons and/or doulas will be responsible for bringing or obtaining meals offsite throughout their stay.
4. Please be sure to bring necessary clothes, medications and make arrangements with your provider for nicotine replacement (patches, gum etc.) if required.
5. Any exceptions to the above must be cleared through Incident Command (prior to admission if possible).

Testing and Exposures:

1. All patients and their support persons admitted to the Birthing Center will be recommended to have a rapid COVID test performed, unless there is a COVID test result in their chart or provided at time of admission and is less than 7 days old. Patients and/or support persons who refuse testing will be identified as a person under investigation (PUI). Special infection control measures will be taken to ensure safety for all patients and staff.
2. If a support person and/or certified doula tests positive, he/she will be asked to leave and an alternative support person will be identified. The alternative support person will be offered rapid testing upon entry to the unit, but may refuse. If testing is refused, the patient and alternative support person will be placed under PUI status and symptoms will be monitored.
3. Patients and support persons are required to wear masks at all times when caregivers are in the room, for your own protection and for that of our staff. Mothers who are in active labor will be able to remove their masks. Support persons and/or the certified doula may also be advised to wear additional protective equipment by hospital staff, and should respectfully comply in order to remain in the hospital setting.

Newborn Care:

1. An infant born to a COVID+/PUI patient is also considered to be a PUI, and should have all routine care performed in the room with their mother. Newborns will be placed in an isolette (enclosed crib) and handling of the newborn by the patient and support person will be minimized, to reduce risk of exposure and transmission of Covid 19 to the infant. If an infant born to a COVID+/PUI requires a higher level of care, he/she will be placed in the special care nursery (SCN) to receive that care, and the door will be kept closed.
2. In the event of a PUI newborn requiring care in the SCN, other infants on the unit will room-in with their parents and will not be brought into the nursery unless there is an emergency requiring a higher level of care.
3. In cases of male infants who are COVID+/PUI whose parents are requesting circumcision, these should be done prior to discharge in an available empty room other than the nursery or should be scheduled as an outpatient procedure.

