

Information for pregnant women at Flinders Medical Centre

With the current COVID-19 situation, Flinders Medical Centre's (FMC) Women's & Children's Division have made decisions based on advice from SA Health, and the experiences and advice of our counterparts in other Australian states and territories.

FMC is planning and making decisions in consultation and collaboration with our maternity partners across the state, both in the public and private sectors, and in metropolitan and regional areas.

Vaccinations

Pregnant people and their unborn baby have a significantly higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 than non-pregnant people:

- > 5 times higher risk of requiring a hospital admission
- > 2-3 times higher risk of needing treatment in a hospital intensive care unit
- > 1.5 times higher chance of being born preterm or admission to a special care nursery.

Vaccination is the best way to reduce your risk of becoming seriously unwell with COVID-19.

Vaccination rates among pregnant women in South Australia are still very low and we encourage all pregnant women despite their gestation period, to be vaccinated as soon as possible. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) and Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) recommend that pregnant women be offered the Pfizer vaccine at any stage of pregnancy.

There is no evidence of safety concerns from large numbers of pregnant women who have been administered this vaccine. There is also evidence that women who are vaccinated develop antibodies which are in the cord blood and breast milk, and therefore offer protection to the baby.

Women who are trying to become pregnant should not delay vaccination or avoid becoming pregnant after vaccination.

We also encourage extended family members who will interact with your baby to be fully vaccinated.

Hospital Visiting

Decisions around visiting/support persons are not made lightly, and it is acknowledged we are unable to meet everyone's individual needs. Visitor guidelines have been put in place to protect yourself, your baby, your partner/support person and the staff caring for them. These guidelines are subject to change.

Please note: For all maternity areas, there will be special considerations on compassionate grounds on a case by case basis that cannot be predetermined.

Current visiting guidelines for the Women's & Children's Division

Current as at 18 May 2022

Antenatal care in clinics: Two support people may attend with the woman with no time restrictions.

Labour care: Two support people can attend for the duration of labour and follow up to the postnatal ward.

Elective caesarean section: One designated partner/support person can attend for the duration the caesarean section procedure and follow up to the postnatal ward.

Postnatal wards: Two support people can visit between the hours of 11am until 8pm. The partner may be able to stay overnight under special circumstances.

Neonatal Unit: Only the parents of the baby can visit, with no time restrictions. Other children/siblings and adult relatives are not able to visit.

Paediatric ward: Two parents per day, with one parent able to stay overnight.

Birthing at FMC

FMC is also providing care to COVID-19 positive pregnant women who need care or to birth.

You can be reassured, our hospital has dedicated pathways to ensure non-COVID-19 patients remain safe, with COVID-19 patients remaining separate at all times to minimise the risk of COVID-19 exposure to others.

Both non-COVID-19 and COVID-19 pregnant women will receive safe, high-quality and respectful care at FMC at all times.

Support available

If you have any questions or concerns during this time please don't hesitate to ask a staff member, we are here to help you.



This document has been reviewed and endorsed by consumers.



Government of South Australia

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