Congratulations on your upcoming arrival!

During these unprecedented times, we have different requirements than in times of normal operations. We recognize that to some these policies and procedures may seem unusual, however our updated clinical practices are in place to protect our patients, caregivers and community from the spread of COVID-19. Processes can change quickly based on the number of COVID-19 cases in our community and the phase we are in.

Some of the current policies include:

- Universal masking for all caregivers and patients
- Pre-delivery COVID-19 testing for scheduled deliveries
- Covid-19 testing on arrival for all other delivering patients
- Significantly limiting visitors throughout our facilities

Women presenting to the Family Birth Center must undergo screening/testing for COVID-19. If a mother tests positive for COVID-19, she is admitted to a labor room, and caregivers use Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) including droplet and contact isolation with eye protection. Other precautions would then include:

- Any baby born to a COVID-positive mom is considered to be at risk and remains in precautionary status until discharge or taken off isolation by Infection Prevention Department A baby born to a Covid – 19 positive mom will be tested (however likely won’t show if positive for 2 weeks,). If infant medically cleared to room in with mother, infant may do so in the mother’s post-partum room in an isolette with precautions in place until discharge. Any infant needing a higher level of care will be transferred to the Special Care Nursery (SCN), where different precautions are in place. This is for the safety of the infant, as well as other medically unstable patients.
- Any visitor (parent/essential support person) of a mother who has tested positive for COVID-19, must test negative to be allowed to visit baby. All accommodations are made to help the visitor with rapid testing. Tele-visits may be set up for the family.
- Any mother who has tested COVID-19 positive cannot visit the SCN until two negative tests obtained and absence of symptoms. Another parent (or designated family member) who has a negative COVID-19 test result, will be able to visit the baby in the SCN.

Our patient care philosophy depends greatly on engaging families to be part of the healing process. However, due to the outbreak of COVID-19 we must take these extra steps. In regards to visitor restrictions, we recognize there are times when having a person familiar with the patient is important. In these cases one essential support person may be allowed based on exceptions. The essential support person will only be allowed into the hospital if they screen negative for COVID-19 symptoms. Additionally, children under the age of 18 will not be allowed except under extraordinary circumstances.

An essential support person may be permitted to accompany patients if their presence is necessary for the overall care experience of the patient by assisting with communication and providing critical support to the patient. Such situations include:
• Obstetric patients may have one partner and one birth support person (doula) to accompany them. The partner may stay the entire time. The doula must depart once the patient leaves the labor room.
• Special Care Nursery (SCN) patients may have two parents/guardians as visitors. Siblings are not permitted to visit.
• The essential support person will need to bring their own mask. Masks may be removed once in your assigned room. Pandemic visitation policy allows the (masked) essential support person to leave the room to go to the cafeteria as needed for food and leave the facility once a day for shower and home care.

The safety of our patients, caregivers and community remains the priority of Providence St. Peter Hospital. Much has changed in recent months. For us, this means a new landscape in how we deliver care, but with the same commitment to health that we’ve always had.