

Improving the health of the people in our communities by
providing quality, compassionate care to everyone, every time

COVID-19 TESTING FOR LABOR AND DELIVERY ADMISSION

Dear Patient:

The COVID-19 (coronavirus) outbreak has changed our lives in many ways. The virus spreads very easily, and many people continue to get infected. We are testing all patients admitted to the hospital for COVID-19 in order to provide the best possible counseling and guidance to families.

- When you arrive at the hospital, we will ask you screening questions. Have you had a fever, cough or shortness of breath? Have you had diarrhea or lost your sense of smell or taste? Have you been exposed to someone with COVID-19?
- When you arrive, we will send a test for COVID-19, which is a nose swab.
- If you are scheduled for an induction or cesarean section, please go to a community testing center 1-2 days before your scheduled date to get a COVID-19 test. We will not re-test you on admission unless you have new symptoms.
- If you have symptoms, or a **POSITIVE** test:
 - You may have one *healthy* support person stay with you. This one person should plan to stay in your room with you for your entire hospital stay.
 - Your baby will room in with you as long as you are both medically stable.
 - If your baby needs to go to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) you will not be able to visit your baby. We do have tablets available for you to be able to see your baby and talk to your baby's nurse.
- All safety actions should be taken to decrease the spread of COVID-19 to your baby if you have symptoms or a positive test. These include:
 - Washing your hands often, especially before holding or feeding your baby
 - Placing your baby's crib at least 6 feet away from your bed for sleep
 - Wearing a face mask when holding or feeding your baby
- If you **DECLINE** the test, you will be treated as a positive patient as described above.
- If your test is **NEGATIVE**, no further testing is required, unless you show new symptoms during your hospital stay. You may have one support person and one certified doula with you while you are in labor.
- Breastfeeding is healthy for moms and newborns. We will support you with breastfeeding if you have a positive, negative, or unknown COVID-19 test result.

We believe that testing all patients is the best way to keep you, your family, and our community safe. Please feel free to ask us any questions you may have.

Stay Healthy!

The Birth Center at Sparrow Hospital
Nursing and Medical Leadership Team