

Choosing Not to Be Tested for COVID-19 at the Hospital for Delivery

The coronavirus (COVID-19) is spreading in our community. You can have the virus without knowing it. This is because after being infected it takes a few days for the symptoms (such as a cough or fever) to appear. In fact, you might never show symptoms, but you can still give the infection to other people.

We want to keep our patients, their families and our healthcare workers safe and reduce the spread of this virus. To do this, **it is important for all patients to be tested for the virus when they come to the hospital for birth.**

If you will not agree to have a COVID-19 test, we **have to assume that you may be infected with the virus and follow COVID-19 guidelines.** This chart below shows what this means to you:

Guidelines for delivery during COVID-19:	Mom COVID test: negative	Mom COVID test: untested
Number of support people:	2	1
Water birth allowed?	Yes	No
Nitrous oxide allowed?	Yes	No
Does Baby get COVID Test? (Newborns are tested for COVID between 48-72 hours of age)	No	Yes
Can baby go to the respite nursery?	Yes	No
Postpartum sterilization available?	Yes	No

If you are not tested for COVID-19, your healthcare team will wear additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). The chart below shows what this means:

Staff members:	Mom COVID test: negative	Mom COVID test: untested
Healthcare Team PPE– labor & delivery	Standard Mask	N95 Respirator, Eyewear, Gown, Gloves
Healthcare Team PPE– General Care	Standard Mask	Standard Mask +Eyewear

We are trying to do everything possible to keep you, your baby, and your whole family safe during this difficult time. Please ask us any questions.

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