

Information for Visitors to Inpatient Settings and Birthing Centres

As your Health Board, we know our visitors work with us to maintain the safety of our patients and respect the measures that we ask them to follow during this difficult time. Due to the rapidly changing picture of COVID 19, this also means that arrangements for visiting may be changed at any time to maintain patient safety.

As of 25th December 2021, we advise that visitors to our inpatient settings and birthing centres undertake lateral flow tests prior to attending your pre-booked visit.

Visiting considerations are informed by COVID 19 rates, hospital COVID 19 admission numbers, national guidance and any outbreaks that may be experienced in the Hospital environment.

All visiting remains by appointment only.

Lateral flow device (LFD) tests for home use can be ordered from: [Order coronavirus \(COVID-19\) rapid lateral flow tests - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-covid-19-rapid-lateral-flow-tests)

Lateral Flow Devices can now be collected from pharmacies across the county. See Welsh Government web site for full details of what is available near you.

General visiting requirements

- We advise all visitors to undertake a Lateral Flow Test prior to visiting birthing centres and inpatient areas. Lateral flow tests should be undertaken as near to the visit as possible and not exceeding 24 hours. If you are unable to undertake a lateral flow test, your visit request will be risk assessed.
- Permission for one visit does not provide agreement for future visits.
- Book each and every visit directly with the ward or area you wish to visit.
- Comply with all infection prevention & control measures including mask-wearing, 2 metre physical distancing and hand hygiene. Masks must be fluid resistant and if necessary will be provided. All visitors 11 years and older are required to wear a mask.
- Please adhere to visiting appointment time only.
- Avoid sharing food or drink with patients/service users.
- Avoid bringing gifts and personal items into hospital premises.
- Always follow advice and guidance from clinical staff.
- Visitors must not attend if symptomatic of COVID 19.
- Visiting arrangements can be changed at short notice to ensure the safety of all patients and to comply with national guidance & legislation.

Thank you for helping us to help keep Powys safe.

Maternity / Birthing Centre Visiting Guidance

- Women choosing to birth in a Powys Community Hospital Birth Centre will be supported with a Birthing Partners or Nominated essential other.
- Welsh Government guidance has emphasised where possible, recommending that partners, visitors or other supporters should preferably be from the same household or part of an extended household as the woman.
- The support for labour is discussed with the Named Midwife as part of the antenatal birth preferences discussion.
- Birthing partners or nominated essential others should complete a test when client is showing signs of labour, so that the lateral flow test (LFT) result is known prior to attendance at the Birth Centre.
- Women are advised to consider an alternate essential support person in the event of their birthing partner having a positive LFT.

Exceptional circumstances for inpatient settings/ birthing centres

Please speak to the ward directly for further information on exceptional circumstances such as visiting loved ones in the last days of life.

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