

WOMEN'S CENTER FAQ: COVID-19

HOW IS COVID-19 TESTING BEING MANAGED AT TAMPA GENERAL HOSPITAL?

All patients are tested for COVID-19 before or during admission to TGH.

WHAT IS YOUR MASK POLICY AND ARE MASKS PROVIDED TO VISITORS?

Visitors are asked to arrive at our facilities with a clean mask or face covering. If they do not arrive with a mask, one will be provided as long as supplies are available. Visitors are required to wear masks over their noses and mouths at all times inside the hospital, except when eating or drinking. Failure to adhere to our mask rules will result in visitors being asked to leave the hospital and not be able to return.

WHAT STEPS ARE STAFF TAKING TO PROTECT PATIENTS, VISITORS AND EMPLOYEES?

Tampa General Hospital is undergoing multiple efforts to help maintain the safety of patients, their loved ones and our team members.

Universal masking, strict adherence to hand hygiene, and physical distancing are the keys to preventing transmission, and we continue to focus our efforts on these measures. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends that everyone entering the facility wear a mask or face covering that covers their nose and mouth while visiting medical facilities. All TGH team members and physicians are following universal masking guidelines, in addition to wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). Hand sanitizer dispensers are available at all nursing stations, entry points, and elsewhere throughout the hospital, and the number of visitors is limited and enforced for the safety of all patients, their families, and staff.

All visitors must wear masks, regardless of COVID-19 vaccination status, and are to limit their movements in the hospital to travel to and from the patient's room.

WILL I BE SEPARATED FROM MY BABY AFTER BIRTH?

The only time a mother and baby would be separated is when the mother is too ill to care for the baby. In these situations, the plan is discussed with mother to ensure she is part of the process. We allow mothers to make a fully informed choice about separation after discussing it with their provider.

WHAT IS YOUR POLICY ON SUPPORT PERSON VISITS?

For the labor & delivery area, patients may have one primary support person at the bedside, and they should plan to remain with the patient during the stay. A second person who is labor support may be present in the Labor & Delivery area. The primary support person may accompany the patient to their new room. A second support person may visit for a maximum of two hours each day during visitation hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Support persons should wear a mask and refrain from eating or drinking when staff is present.

For antepartum and post-partum (mother-baby) areas, the primary support person for the patient should plan to stay until the patient is discharged. If the patient wishes to have an additional visitor, one person may visit for a maximum of two hours each day during visiting hours from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. There will be only one pass issued to a patient's room each day. If the person's primary support person leaves, and the visitor

pass for the patient's room has already been issued, they will not be allowed to return until visiting hours begin again at 8 a.m. the next day. The primary support person should wear a mask and refrain from eating or drinking when staff is present. The additional visitor must remain masked and refrain from eating or drinking while at the hospital.

All visitors must be at least 18 years of age and have a valid government-issued identification card.

WHAT IS THE NICU VISITATION PROCESS?

NICU visitation is restricted to parents. Both parents may be at the bedside from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. One parent may remain at the bedside overnight. Our NICU offers NicView®, an innovative small camera that allows family members and friends to view the parents' infant in real time, 24/7, through a secure online portal.

ARE PATIENT ROOMS PRIVATE?

We currently have a mix of accommodations to ensure we have adequate space for all patients.

IF I'M IN A SEMI-PRIVATE ROOM, WHAT PRECAUTIONS ARE BEING TAKEN TO DECREASE MY RISK OF EXPOSURE TO COVID-19?

Whenever possible, we make every effort to place patients in a private room. If this is not possible, we ensure that all patients have adequate space to ensure safety in semi-private rooms. All TGH team members and physicians are following universal masking guidelines, in addition to wearing the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE). All visitors must wear masks that cover their nose and mouths.

WILL MY SUPPORT PERSON NEED TO BRING CLOTHES, TOILETRIES, AND SNACKS?

We recommend that your support person bring extra clothes, personal care items, phone chargers, and snacks with them to the hospital. Bags should be brought in upon arrival to the hospital. Our goal is to keep you and your baby safe by limiting trips outside of the hospital during your stay.

IS THERE DINING SERVICE FOR SUPPORT PERSONS/GUESTS?

Yes. A guest tray is currently provided to the support person, but it is not customizable. It is a standard tray and the support person cannot request changes.

CAN MY VISITOR GO TO THE CAFETERIA OR HAVE FOOD DELIVERED?

During the pandemic the cafeteria, Starbucks and McDonald's are takeout only. Outside food deliveries or drop-off for visitors are not allowed. This includes services such as Uber Eats and Grubhub.

ARE THERE ACCOMMODATIONS FOR SLEEPING AND SHOWERING IN THE PATIENT ROOMS?

All rooms have sleeping accommodations for the patient's support person, and all adult patient rooms have a shower *for the patient*. Showers are not available in the NICU, but accommodations for showers can be arranged.

HOW DO YOU HELP FAMILY MEMBERS AND LOVED ONES COMMUNICATE WITH PATIENTS?

Tampa General Hospital offers a variety of options that help patients remain in contact with family members and loved ones. During labor and delivery, we suggest the patient designates one person to make calls to family and friends to keep them updated. After delivery, the patient's room in the mother-baby unit will have a direct dial phone number for convenience. Family and friends may call the main hospital phone number at

813-844-7000 and ask for the patient by name. Our NICU offers NicView®, an innovative small camera that allows family members and friends to view the parents' infant in real time, 24/7, through a secure online portal.

ARE THERE ANY CLINICAL CHANGES IN LABOR AND DELIVERY CARE DURING THE PANDEMIC?

All patients are tested for COVID-19. For patients who test negative, there is no change in the clinical care they receive. For patients who test positive, we follow American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) recommendations for care. Patients, their babies and support persons are incorporated into this planning. We allow mothers to make a fully informed choice about separation after discussion with their baby's provider.

HAVE THE LACTATION SUPPORT SERVICES CHANGED DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Lactation Services is available seven days a week. Patients who need outpatient lactation services can call if they have any questions or concerns and someone from Lactation Services will be in contact with them to provide assistance. Lactation Services can be reached at 813-844-7613.

ARE PRENATAL CLASSES STILL AVAILABLE?

Yes, prenatal courses are being taught virtually at this time. The classes we are offering include labor and birth preparation, breastfeeding basics, basic newborn care, infant and child CPR and safety, boot camps for new moms and dads, and more. Our class schedule can be accessed [HERE](#). The [TGH Women's Center and Childbirth Education booklet](#) is a comprehensive resource for expecting parents, offering more information on parenting classes and registration, what to expect during your visit to the TGH labor & delivery unit, managing pain during labor, what to expect after your baby is born, the benefits of breastfeeding and how to keep your baby safe. We also offer a [video tour of the TGH Women's Center](#).

IF I AM HAVING PREGNANCY COMPLICATIONS, WHO SHOULD I CALL AND WHERE SHOULD I GO?

We are always open. We encourage you to contact your provider before coming to the hospital. You can also contact our Labor & Delivery unit at 813-844-7122 for guidance. If you are having a medical emergency, call 911.

IS THE COVID-19 VACCINE SAFE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN?

Centers for Disease Control and Prevents (CDC) is recommending all people 12 years of age and older get vaccinated against COVID-19. A recent CDC analysis of current data from the v-safe pregnancy registry assessed vaccination in early pregnancy and did not find an increased risk of miscarriage among nearly 2,500 pregnant women who received an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine before 20 weeks of pregnancy. The increased risk of severe illness and pregnancy complications related to COVID-19 infection among pregnant people make vaccination more urgent than ever. Learn more at [cdc.gov](https://www.cdc.gov).

CAN I GET VACCINATED WHILE I'M IN THE HOSPITAL?

Yes. We encourage patients to discuss vaccination with their care team.

IS THERE A PLACE I CAN ACCESS VISITATION POLICY UPDATES DURING THE PANDEMIC?

Yes. Tampa General Hospital provides the most up-to-date version of its visitation policy and other important resources online at tgh.org/covid#updates.