

If you are pregnant and you identify as Black, Asian or another Ethnic Minority Group, we want you to know...

We are here to support you

Do you have concerns about your pregnancy or your maternity care on account of your ethnicity?

Research produced during the COVID-19 outbreak has shown that pregnant women from Black, Asian and Ethnic Minority backgrounds (referred in the NHS as BAME backgrounds) have an increased chance of having severe symptoms of COVID-19 that require hospitalisation (four times the chance). Research is ongoing to explain the reasons why this is the case so we can provide appropriate care.

In these uncertain times, we want to support you with any anxieties you might be experiencing about coming to or staying in hospital. We would like you to know that we are here to help and support you.

- If you are in established labour, early labour or coming in for an assessment of labour, a birth partner who is free of COVID-19 symptoms can be with you to support you.
- We have translation services available both face-to-face and over the telephone if you need them. Please ask your midwife for more information.
- If you are staying on the ward, your birthing partner is allowed to visit for two hours a day. These will be booked appointments, please speak with your Midwife to find out more.
- We have midwives, student midwives and support staff who are all here to support and help you. You are not alone.

If you have any concerns that the type of care you are receiving is affected because of your ethnicity, please speak with a member of the Maternity Team, The Senior Sister, and the rest of her team will listen to your concerns and work with you in order to improve your level of care and experience.

Your Midwife will be asking you at every antenatal check if you are experiencing any symptoms of COVID-19. This is to try and keep you and your baby safe. If you have COVID-19 symptoms only, please call NHS 111 and they will be able to advise you. If you have COVID-19 symptoms and another pregnancy related issue, please call the Delivery Suite on 01908 996 478. Lines are open 24 hours a day.

The symptoms to be aware of are:

- A raised temperature or fever experienced in the last 24 hours
- A cough
- Flu like symptoms
- Loss of taste and/or smell

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**From the Milton Keynes University Hospital
Maternity Team**