

## **What expectant moms can expect when giving birth during the coronavirus pandemic**

While many aspects of life have changed during the coronavirus pandemic, Ascension Sacred Heart remains committed to supporting you at every step of your childbirth. We have protocols in place to ensure you have a safe delivery during this time.

Understandably, many expectant mothers have questions about how the pandemic will affect their labor and delivery. To help put your mind at ease, here are answers to some of our FAQs:

### **Q: What is your visitation policy?**

**A:** Women giving birth can have one support person and a doula. Your support person must remain the same throughout your stay.

### **Q: Can my partner come with me to OB/GYN appointments?**

**A:** This is specific to each physician practice, please call your doctor's office.

### **Q: With new visitor restrictions, can my support person leave the hospital?**

**A:** We ask that the support person stay in the room as much as possible. If your support person has to leave, he/she will be required to be screened before re-entry.

### **Q: Can my support person stay overnight?**

**A:** Yes.

### **Q: Will I be tested for COVID-19 before giving birth?**

**A:** At this time only scheduled patients, such as those being induced or having a Cesarean section, are being tested prior to arrival at the hospital. Spontaneous walk-in labor patients are only tested if they screen and meet positive triggers, such as fever or cough.

### **Q: Can I refuse to take the COVID-19 test?**

**A:** A patient has the right to refuse any type of testing.

### **Q: If I refuse to take COVID-19 test, will access to my newborn be restricted?**

**A:** A mother is not refused access to her baby due to COVID-19 testing.

### **Q: Do I have to wear a mask during labor and delivery?**

**A:** No, you do not.

### **Q: Does my support person have to wear a mask?**

**A:** We recommend that the support person wear a mask when out of the room in public areas. If mom is COVID-19 positive and a support person is present for delivery, the support person will be required to wear a mask in the room and will be required to stay in the room for the duration and then will be required to leave after delivery.

**Q: After giving birth, can I hold my newborn?**

**A:** Yes.

**Q: Are you separating mother and infant after birth?**

**A:** We do couplet care, so your baby stays with you unless you request a nurse take your baby to the nursery. However, if mom requires ICU care or if baby requires NICU care this would be an instance where mom and baby may be separated initially. However, we will do all we can to unite mom and baby to promote bonding of the couplet.