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Our ref: CD/br  
22<sup>nd</sup> December, 2020

Mr. Alan Dillon,  
Leinster House,  
Kildare Street,  
Dublin 2.

**PQ; 43353/20 To ask the Minister for Health the status of the maternity restrictions in Mayo University Hospital as there are currently no reported cases in MUH; His plans to allow birthing partners attend scans and births as this is causing huge anxiety to couples; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Alan Dillon**

Dear Mr. Dillon,

Senior management and staff within the Maternity services at Mayo University Hospital are working closely with the Infection Prevention and Control team at the hospital to ensure the safety of all women and their nominated partner.

Re-introducing access to partners of pregnant women during the COVID-19 pandemic is challenging, and our priority must be the safety of women, their babies and maternity staff.

The Maternity Services at MUH is very mindful of the distress that the restrictions may have caused women and their partners and we are working towards facilitating partners or one nominated person to accompany pregnant women in a safe manner.

We reintroduced the partner present at the 20 week scan on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> of December. This concession is specific to the 20 week scan and partners will not be allowed to attend other routine scans. Partners will have to wait outside until they are called in to join their partner in the scan room. They will be asked to sign a covid declaration at the front door by security. We are delighted to be able to allow partners back for this scan in a safe way.

Currently, partners are allowed to attend with women in labour ward for delivery and partners are called in to theatre to attend caesarean sections.

Partners are allowed one hour per day visit on maternity ward postnatally.

If a baby is in SCBU and the Mum is an inpatient there is unlimited visiting and the Father can visit daily for 15 minutes.

If there is a change in the covid 19 restrictions we will review this. We will be directed by national guidance to safeguard all our patients, families and staff.

We appreciate the patience shown by families as we work through these difficult months, providing high quality maternity and infant care and keeping our patients and services safe from COVID-19.

Yours faithfully,



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**CATHERINE DONOHOE**  
Hospital Manager