



Clár Sláinte Náisiúnta do Mhná & do Naíonáin
Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte, Aonad 7A, Áras
Dargan, An Ceantar Theas, Baile Átha Cliath 8
T: 076 695 9991

National Women and Infants Health Programme
Health Service Executive, Unit 7A, The Dargan Building,
Heuston South Quarter, Dublin 8
T: 076 695 9991

03/11/2020

Deputy Kehoe
Dáil Éireann,
Leinster House
Dublin 2

PQ Ref 32151/20 - To ask the Minister for Health if a Covid-19 safe process is being formulated in which partners of expectant mothers can attend ante-natal appointments and births in maternity hospitals; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Kehoe

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question, which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response. I have examined the matter and the following outlines the position.

Please see attached, a copy of a document from the HSE entitled 'Visiting Practices in Maternity Services'. To the best of our knowledge, all hospitals facilitate the attendance of partners at births. Currently, partners do not attend antenatal appointments but if bad news is expected then hospitals are encouraged to use their discretion on compassionate grounds.

I trust this clarifies the matter.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary-Jo Biggs'.

Mary-Jo Biggs, General Manager, National Women and Infants Health Programme