



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta
Géaroibríochtaí

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An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile
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Deputy Neasa Hourigan
Dáil Éireann
Leinster House
Dublin 2

5th May 2023

PQ 19482/23 - To ask the Minister for Health if he will outline the advice currently provided by his Department to maternity units on best practice inpatient partner supports nationwide; the oversight of those recommendations; and if he will make a statement on the matter.

Dear Deputy Hourigan,

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.

Please be advised that across the system, there are no restrictions or limitations in place in any maternity hospitals for nominated support partners.

It is also consistent throughout the system in the event of a nominated partner being unavailable to attend, the patient can identify another support person to support.

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre (HSPC) guidance and restrictions that were in place related to visitor access to maternity services in context of CV19 are no longer applicable.

The Antimicrobial Resistance Infection Control (AMRIC) team have also released the revised guidance from 19th April, 2023, in relation to restrictions that will apply in the event of a CV19 outbreak.

There are exceptions introduced at times based on local infection prevention control measures / health and safety, all exceptions are risk assessed and given due consideration to support expectant mothers and their support persons.

Each maternity service assesses their ability to accommodate access for visitors in context of local facilities & infection control requirements.

I trust this is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely,

Nessa Lynch
General Manager
Acute Operations