



Oifig an Stiúirthóra Náisiúnta  
Géaroibríochtaí

Aonad 4A, Áras Dargan, An Ceantar Theas,  
An Bóthar Míleata, Cill Mhaighneann, Baile  
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Deputy Holly Cairns  
Dáil Éireann  
Leinster House  
Dublin 2

2<sup>nd</sup> June 2023

***PQ 26731/23 - To ask the Minister for Health the steps he is taking to ensure all maternity hospitals and units are permitting partners to attend all of the labour process and visit during set hours; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Holly Cairns***

Dear Deputy Cairns,

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 hospital for nominated support partners. They are permitted to attend the labour ward, post-natal visits and for routine antenatal appointments.

It is also consistent throughout the system in the event of a nominated partner being unavailable to attend a particular appointment, the patient can identify another support person to attend and 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guidance and restrictions that were in place related to visitor access to maternity services in context of CV19 are no longer applicable.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 local exceptions introduced at times based on local infection prevention control measures / health and safety, 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