

To:

Directors of Nursing
Heads of Midwifery

NHS England and NHS
Improvement
Skipton House
80 London Road
London SE1 6LH

19 September 2020

Dear all

As you will be aware, working with the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) at the start of the first wave, NHS advice necessarily had to limit the number of people going in and out of hospitals, including for maternity scans.

Now that the peak of the first wave has passed, and in agreement with RCM and RCOG, and the Society and College of Radiographers, [NHS guidance](#) was issued on 8 September so that partners and visitors can attend maternity units.

This builds on the determined effort throughout the pandemic to ensure partners were able to be present during labour.

We thank you and are grateful the majority of services have quickly implemented this guidance and relaxed visiting restrictions. To those that are still working through the guidance, this must happen now so that partners are able to attend maternity units for appointments and births.

The priority of course remains the safety of all patients, their family and our colleagues. In certain areas of the country the increase in infection rates will require localised responses, and we have included clear steps for how to minimise infection control risks working with your IPC leads, while still allowing the maximum possible safe access.

Pregnancy can be a stressful time for women and their families, and all the more so during a pandemic, so it is vital that everything possible is done to support them through this time. Thank you for your efforts at this challenging time.

Yours sincerely

**Professor Jacqueline
Dunkley-Bent OBE**

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