

Pregnancy and COVID-19 at Williamson Medical Center FAQs

Williamson Medical Center would like to congratulate you on the upcoming birth of your baby and we would also like to thank you for choosing our facility. We recognize that delivering a baby during a pandemic can be frightening and stressful. However, we want to assure you that our dedicated team of staff and physicians are here to provide you with excellent, safe medical care and to support you and your baby during your delivery.

1. What precautions is the hospital taking to prevent the spread of COVID-19 while I am a patient?

All of our staff have received increased training on COVID-19 and infection prevention. We are screening everyone entering the hospital daily, practicing excellent hand hygiene, limiting visitors, using social distancing whenever possible and using currently recommended practices and personal protective equipment when providing patient care.

2. Should we quarantine ourselves before delivery?

Yes. We suggest that you and your support person attempt to quarantine yourselves as much as possible during the three weeks leading up to your expected delivery date to reduce possible exposure to COVID-19. Please continue to refer to the current guidance on infection prevention for yourself and your household. Information about this can be reviewed at: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html

3. Who can be with me during my stay in the hospital?

We are now allowing unlimited visitation during your stay unless you are COVID positive. Visitors over 3 years of age are required to wear masks. If you are COVID positive you are permitted one support person during your stay. Your support person must be COVID negative and must remain the same through the duration of your stay. Your support person must stay in the room with you at all times and will be unable to re-enter if they leave the room.

4. Will my visitors be screened while I'm in the hospital and will they have to wear a mask?

Your visitors will be asked screening questions about symptoms and potential exposure to COVID-19 prior to entering the hospital. They will also be asked to wear a mask to and from the hospital, while in the hallways and whenever staff is present in your room.

5. Do I have to wear a mask?

Masks are requested if you and your visitors are in the hallways and common areas and whenever staff is present in your room. If you have NOT BEEN FULLY VACCINATED against Covid, we will test you for Covid upon admission to the hospital. If you test negative then you will be permitted to take your mask off during the active stage of labor. If you ARE FULLY VACCINATED, you will not require a Covid test, and you will be permitted to remove your mask during the active stage of labor. Once you deliver, we request that you wear a mask when staff is present.

6. Will my baby and I be separated if I am diagnosed with COVID-19?

According to current AAP recommendations, mothers and newborns may room-in together. In order to prevent possible transmission, you and your support person will be asked to wear a mask and use good hand hygiene when holding or breastfeeding your baby.

7. Can I breastfeed if I am diagnosed with COVID-19?

Yes. We know how important breastfeeding is for both mom and baby. The AAP strongly recommend breastfeeding for COVID-19 positive moms. You will need to wear a mask and practice good hand hygiene when breastfeeding your infant.

8. Can I go home earlier if I want to and we are all stable?

We are making every effort to get you discharged a day earlier if you are interested in doing that. Whenever possible, patients who deliver vaginally may be discharged after 24 hours and patients who deliver by cesarean section may be discharged after 48 hours. However, each patient is different and you may not be eligible for an early discharge based on you or your baby's medical care. Please speak to both your OB provider and your pediatrician if you are interested in early discharge.

9. Do you still offer childbirth classes and/or tours?

We offer online classes and a virtual tour that can be found on our website: WilliamsonMedicalCenter.org/OB. While we wish we could do these in person, we are unable to hold community classes at the present time.

We know that this may not be the experience that you anticipated, but rest assured that we at Williamson Medical Center will do everything possible to provide you with expert care while following recommended guidelines to keep you and your baby safe and healthy.