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Birth partners 29 March 2020

Birth Partners

Having a trusted birth partner present throughout labour [is known to make a significant difference](#) to the safety and well-being of women in childbirth. At times like this, when coronavirus is heightening anxiety, that reassurance is more important than ever. While we concur with decisions to restrict access to birth partners who have or are suspecting of having coronavirus in order to safeguard the health of the woman and the maternity staff supporting her, NHS Trusts and Boards should continue to follow guidance allowing birth partners access to the labour and birth rooms.

Localised restrictions by Trusts and Boards on visitors may mean that partners are not able to attend routine antenatal appointments or stay with women on antenatal or postnatal wards. **It is important to note that this should not apply to a partner being in the labour and birth room. Such advice does not comply with current guidance from NHS England, or the RCM and RCOG, as above.**