



Additional visitor restrictions on Quinte 7 Maternal Child Unit at QHC Belleville General Hospital

How was this decision made?

This decision was made after careful consideration involving physicians, midwives, the maternal child team, and administration. Our number one priority is the safety of our moms, newborns, children, and families. Our Maternal Child care team concluded that we would rather be accused two months from now of being overly restrictive in our approach to visitors on the maternity unit, than face the awful realization that we did not do enough to protect our most vulnerable newborns and children from an exposure to COVID-19.

Why was it necessary to further restrict the number of people on Q7?

Quinte 7 Maternal Child Unit at QHC Belleville General Hospital is one floor with four different units – Special Care Nursery, Paediatrics, Labour and Delivery, and Post-Partum Care. We have minimal private rooms and have had to carefully rearrange the flow on Quinte 7 based on the need to separate patients who screen negative from patients who screen positive for COVID risk. As a result of the additional space required to separate, we are extremely tight for space.

While we are carefully screening, we cannot in good faith have 2 moms, 2 partners/support persons, 2 babes in bassinets in a semi-private room with physicians and nurses coming in and out as well. It would be impossible to ensure necessary distancing. By limiting the number of people on the floor we can hopefully decrease the risk wherever possible.

How long can a support person/partner stay?

During labour and delivery, patients can have one support person. The individual can stay until Mom and baby are moved to a postpartum patient room, which is on average 2 hours. We know this is really difficult for our patients and families. The maternal child team is extremely patient and family focused and this was a very difficult decision for the team.

We encourage all pregnant women and their support persons/partners to strictly follow current guidelines related to social distancing so when they come to Q7 they screen negative for risk of COVID-19. Unfortunately, any support person who screens positive would not be able to attend a delivery on Q7.