A novel coronavirus, known as COVID-19, has been declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organization. COVID-19 is a significant concern in Saskatchewan. Please refer to the Government of Saskatchewan website for up-to-date information on COVID-19: https://www.saskatchewan.ca/coronavirus

Safety is a top priority for the Saskatchewan Health Authority. Our Maternal Services Units have implemented detailed plans to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus, lessen the risk of infection, and ensure that our health care services are available for people who are most at risk for severe illness. In order to keep you, your family, staff and physicians safe, we are requesting your assistance.

1. If you are living outside of Saskatoon and Regina – please call ahead.
   - Calling ahead will ensure that the care that you and your family require during each stage of the pandemic can be met.
   - In some situations, travel to an alternate location to deliver your baby may be required to ensure your safety and support your delivery needs. Your obstetrical provider will work with you so that your care is safely transitioned to another provider if needed.
   - Calling ahead will allow you time to arrange transport and plan for the trip.
   - Calling ahead will include a verbal screen for COVID-19 for you and your support person. This will help our Maternal Care Units to greet each person with the right protective equipment.
     - This will also ensure that your support person is well enough to attend with you or allow an alternate to be notified.

2. Prepare your support person.
   - Maternal and postpartum will be limited to two (2) support people for entire length of your admission.
   - NICU is limited to two (2) consistent primary parents/caregivers for entire length of the baby’s admission.
   - Your support people will;
     - have a health screening prior to entering the facility. This may include a temperature check or a questionnaire,
     - be required to perform hand hygiene (hand washing and/or use of hand sanitizer) when entering and leaving the facility and when entering and leaving your room, and
     - be required to wear a mask while inside the facility.
   - Your support people must be the same for the entire length of your stay in hospital.
     - Support people may leave the unit/facility following strict adherence to social distancing/public health order and limiting public contact.
     - You and your support person can bring personal items including food and beverages.
   - You and your supports are required to limit your presence inside the unit to your room.
   - You and your supports are not permitted to wait in waiting rooms or other common areas.
   - Other visitors will be permitted to the Maternal Care Unit for compassionate reasons.
3. Be prepared for your stay and discharge.
   - Please ensure that you bring sufficient clothing and personal care items for yourself and support people. This could include additional sets of clothing; toiletries such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, unscented soaps; personal care items required for you upon discharge such as breast pads and peripads; an outfit for you and your baby to go home in; electronics and charging cords; blankets and an approved car seat.
   - You and your support people can bring snacks and drinks.
   - If you are COVID-19 positive, under investigation for, or symptomatic for COVID-19, you will be limited to your room.
     - Your support people and any visitor permitted under compassionate reasons will be limited to your room and they must use proper hand hygiene, be trained in appropriate personal protective equipment to reduce the transmission of COVID-19.
     - Meals will be provided for you as the patient and your support people.

4. Please be supportive while we screen you and your support for COVID-19.
   - When arriving at the hospital, both you and your support people will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms and risk factors.
   - A facemask will be provided to you and your support people.
   - If your supports have symptoms or risk factors for COVID-19, or develop them during their time at the hospital, they will not be able to stay. If this occurs, you can choose an alternate support person.
   - Your support person may be required to wear a wristband (or some other form of identification) so health care providers know they have been screened for COVID-19 and permitted to stay.

We thank you for your understanding and cooperation during these unique and challenging times. The direct line to your maternal services unit is: _________________________________.