

Dear Maternity Patient and Birth Partner

## Regarding: Unvaccinated Obstetrics Patients and Birth Partners'

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Calvary, consistent with its mission and values, provides the communities we serve with the highest possible clinical, emotional, social and spiritual care. As the COVID-19 global pandemic continues to unfold, Calvary Hobart is focused on minimising COVID-19 risks for patients, visitors, staff and specialists.

Calvary recognises the importance of the family unit during pregnancy, labor and child birth. The birth partner is the one person the mother chooses to have present during the delivery and will remain as the designated visitor.

Calvary strongly supports the vaccination of all eligible Australians, in particular the recommendation of RANZCOG and ATAGI that every pregnant woman should be vaccinated because of the increased risk of severe illness with COVID-19. However, Calvary acknowledges that not all mothers or birth partners will be vaccinated for COVID-19 prior to admission. In order to mitigate risk, while allowing the family unit to be together during this important time, the following requirements are to be observed.

### **Protocol for you to follow if you and/or your birth partner are unvaccinated:**

- Both the mother and the birth partner must undergo weekly laboratory PCR testing from 36 weeks if unvaccinated;
- The birth partner must undergo a laboratory PCR test within 24 hours of admission if unvaccinated;
- The birth partner must have repeat laboratory PCR testing every 48 hours during the admission period if unvaccinated;
- Once you have had your swab collection you should commence social isolation until the time of your admission. Failure to do so may increase your risk of being exposed in the community;
- The cost of testing will be the responsibility of the family but may be bulk billed with a pathology form completed by your Obstetrician;
- The mother and birth partner must not leave the patient room, except to go to the closest exit, and must not use any other facilities in the hospital;
- If the baby must be admitted to the Special Care Nursery only the mother can be present and must wear a surgical mask;
- Surgical masks must be worn while outside the room by both the mother and birth partner;
- Surgical masks must be worn by both the mother and birth partner when staff enter the room;
- Patients and their birth partner will need to agree to comply with these requirements prior to admission and this will be monitored throughout the stay. Non-compliance will result in exclusion of the birth partner from the site.

Thank you for your support and assistance with this protocol. If you require assistance with this process please contact your Obstetrician.

Yours sincerely

**Calvary Hobart Executive**