Mount Nittany Health Labor & Delivery COVID-19 Testing and Patient Placement

The health and well-being of our staff, patients, and visitors is our top priority. Mount Nittany Health is working closely with public health officials and other community health agencies to monitor local conditions related to COVID-19 (coronavirus). The following policies/practices are in effect until further notice, however, we will continue to evaluate and adjust as additional recommendations from the PA Department of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

COVID-19 Testing

Effective immediately all pregnant patients, including patients established with Mount Nittany Physician Group, Geisinger, and Dr. Emil Szabo’s practice, who plan to deliver at Mount Nittany Medical Center will be tested in the outpatient setting for COVID-19 at 38 weeks’ gestation and again at 40 weeks’ gestation. If a scheduled delivery is planned before 38 weeks’ gestation, a COVID-19 test in the outpatient setting will be completed no later than 3 days prior to the scheduled delivery.

It is the responsibility of the obstetrician to ensure testing has been completed at these times. The COVID-19 test will be valid for 14 days. If the test is negative and the patient is not displaying signs or symptoms of COVID-19, then airborne infection isolation is not necessary. In the rare occurrence when a test has not been completed or is still pending, a rapid in-house Cepheid test may be ordered; however, utilization of the rapid in-house test will be subject to the availability of the Cepheid tests on hand.

Airborne Infection Isolation Rooms (Negative Air Pressure)

Any labor and delivery patient needing an airborne infection isolation room (e.g., suspect/confirmed tuberculosis, suspect/confirmed COVID-19, disseminated shingles, suspect/confirmed measles, chickenpox, etc.) will be placed in a negative air pressure room in the following order:

1. **W458**: If this room is occupied, the patient will be moved to a different room to accommodate the labor and delivery patient. This room is set-up for central fetal monitoring.
2. **N475**: This room was previously designated as E400 and is located on 4E with a temporary room number (N475). If this room is occupied, the patient will be moved to a different room to accommodate the labor and delivery patient. This room is not currently set up for central fetal monitoring. A nurse will need to remain in the room.
3. **E401**: This room is currently designated as an airborne infection isolation level-2 nursery room. If both W458 and N475 are occupied and this room is vacant, a labor and delivery patient may be placed in this room. This room is not currently set up for central fetal monitoring. A nurse will need to remain in the room.
4. **Emergency Department**: If all three options listed above are unavailable, a negative air pressure room in the Emergency Department may be used. These rooms are not currently set up for central fetal monitoring. A nurse will need to remain in the room.