

Tour de France information for pregnant women

This advice has been developed to provide information to all pregnant women who are booked to give birth in **York** but particularly for those women whose expected date of delivery is between 20 June and 17 July 2014.

Maternity Services at York would like to reassure women and their partners that your safety and the safety of your baby is our top priority. York Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust has a contingency plan in place as we expect an increase in both people and traffic to the York area during the weekend of the Tour de France (Friday 4 until Monday 7 July).

We are providing the following advice to all women:

Please check all route, road closures and dates to consider how this may affect you personally to help you plan your route accordingly should you need to get to hospital. Visit <http://www.york.gov.uk/>

Should you be concerned that you will not be able to travel due to road closures please consider if you can make alternative arrangements and stay with friends/family who live closer to the hospital if possible.

Your arrangements for childcare may involve someone travelling to your home so please consider the potential of delay depending where you live

You will always be able to speak to a midwife during this period of time to seek advice, support and guidance.

- 01904 725924 (Labour Ward Triage)
- 01904 726004 (Labour Ward)
- 01904 725666 (Antenatal Clinic)

We would like to reassure you that the Trust is committed to safety and therefore the following plans have been put in place:

- Staff who live locally have been allocated to work within the maternity unit with extra staff on call.
- Provision will be made for partners to stay should getting home be a problem.
- There may be the possibility of postnatal discharges being delayed until road closures are lifted, therefore you may need to stay longer than planned.
- We have discussed plans with neighbouring maternity units of Leeds, Harrogate, Hull and Scarborough should women find access to York Hospital difficult and you decide to access maternity services elsewhere depending on your personal circumstances of where you live.
- Extra Midwives will be at hand on Maternity Triage to answer any questions you may have about your personal circumstances.
- You will be advised to come in earlier rather than later when in labour as you may be delayed getting in to hospital.
- There may be some difficulty for community midwifery staff to travel to home addresses during this weekend and therefore the community midwifery team will be offering detailed telephone advice to women who would normally have been having a postnatal visit on either the 5/6 July. There will be Post natal clinics at Selby hospital for women who wish to see a midwife on an appointment basis. On Monday 7 July post natal appointments will be available at York hospital for any women not seen over the weekend.

Home Births

The home birth service will be suspended from 16:30 on Saturday 5 July for 24 hours due to potential access difficulties or delay of Community Midwives and emergency ambulances should they be required during labour and birth.

This decision has been made on the basis of safety to reduce risks to women and babies. Women who are due to give birth at home during this period are invited to visit the Hospital to see the low risk birthing environments we have available.

Please contact Tricia Fowler, Labour Ward Manager to arrange this on 01904 726104. Or for any advice regarding your personal circumstances during this time please phone the Labour Ward 01904 726004

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to speak to your named community midwife or a member of staff in the Antenatal clinic if you have an appointment before the 5/6 July.

The ambulance service will be for emergency use only.

Further information on the Tour de France plans can be obtained from the York Council website <http://www.york.gov.uk/>