

Important Information for Expectant Families

If your care provider is a family doctor:

- **Labour and delivery services will be provided at Niagara Health – St. Catharines site.** If you go into labour, please go directly to the St. Catharines site.
- Please note: The St. Catharines labour and delivery team **does not** provide medical advice over the phone. You may contact the team for non-medical questions at 905-378-4647 ext.43283.

If your care provider is a midwife:

- **Planned hospital births will be at Niagara Health - St. Catharines site.** Please call the urgent line (289) 566-8881 to speak with the midwife on call before going to the hospital.

If your care provider is Dr. Gai, Dr. Narine or Dr. Nwebube (WLMH Obstetricians):

- **As of September 30th**
 - Patients in labour should go to Niagara Health – St Catharines site
 - If your birthing care plan includes a pre-planned elective C-section, you will deliver at WLMH
 - All inductions will occur at McMaster University Medical Centre
- **As of October 15th**
 - If your birthing care plan includes a pre-planned elective C-section, you will deliver at WLMH. You will be provided a date and time for your elective C-section. You will receive further information from your obstetrician.
 - All inductions and other births (spontaneous labour) will occur at McMaster University Medical Centre. Patients may contact McMaster Labour and Delivery at 905-521-5050.

In an emergency, call 911. The Emergency Department at WLMH remains open 24/7.

For all patients: Your care provider will give you the necessary pre-admission package to be completed in advance. Your health record will also be sent to the appropriate Labour and Delivery unit so that the care team has access to your pregnancy history. If you have any questions about this process, please speak with your provider.

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Pre and follow-up postnatal care: Regular care and appointments before and after the birth will take place as planned. Please ask your obstetrical care provider for a copy of your antenatal records after 36 weeks.

Please visit wlmh.ca for regular updates about what is happening at WLMH.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) has a plan to rebuild its West Lincoln Memorial Hospital (WLMH) site with a firm commitment from the Ontario government to provide the necessary funding to do so quickly.

Until the new facility is ready, HHS and the Ontario government are investing in critical infrastructure upgrades and renovations to keep the current building safe for everyone, and to allow WLMH to return all services to full capacity as quickly as possible. As these upgrades and renovations are being completed, WLMH has only one operating room (OR) available until fall 2020, resulting in the need for difficult decisions about how to organize the services that rely on that OR.

The emergency department, day clinics, inpatient care and diagnostics are **not** affected by the renovations and continue to function while construction is happening. Further, WLMH can keep scheduling elective surgery, including elective C-sections and gynecological surgeries in the one OR.

However, for WLMH to be able to continue offering these services, the hospital needs to temporarily move most of its low-risk labor and deliveries to other nearby hospitals. Family doctors, midwives and obstetricians who care for patients at WLMH have designed a plan to continue providing care to their patients, which involves caring for patients at WLMH, Niagara Health and McMaster University Medical Centre (MUMC). WLMH is grateful to its system partner Niagara Health and colleagues at MUMC for maintaining the continuity of care for patients in West Niagara.

This plan will allow WLMH to continue serving expectant mothers and families in West Niagara in the safest way possible while the hospital upgrades and renovates so that it can meet all the required standards for safe patient care in our hospital.

Doctors and midwives will coordinate care plans with their patients directly to determine the best individual option.

While this is difficult for our staff and communities, this is the best plan in light of the real and significant constraints of WLMH's aging facility. At the end of the day, WLMH will do whatever is necessary to maintain the highest standards of patient safety.