

**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):**

- Patients in labour should go to Niagara Health – St Catharines site
- All inductions will occur at Niagara Health – St Catharines site
- 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.

**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.

**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.

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

The critical safety upgrades required in the operating rooms (ORs) and endoscopy reprocessing area will be completed by early September. Reopening the renovated ORs means that patients can receive high-quality procedures, closer to home, in an environment that meets standards for safety and infection control.

Activity in the ORs is scheduled to commence the week of September 14. The WLMH Clinical Services Steering Committee, which is made up of medical leaders, administrators, nurses, midwives and other clinical stakeholders from across the hospital, has developed a plan to resume activity in the ORs. Services will be brought back gradually and will be built up over time to the level that can be safely supported by our available staff and resources.

The plan includes continuing to build-up our OR nursing staff to increase on-call capabilities, resuming elective surgery and endoscopy procedures, planning to expand the range of day surgeries offered on site, and resuming elements of obstetrics services at WLMH, such as scheduled C-sections. All other births will continue to be redirected to St. Catharine's Hospital until January 2021 when we expect our nurse training graduates will be capable of supporting the on-call roster necessary to provide safe care to laboring women.

We are grateful to the team at Niagara Health and our colleagues at McMaster University Medical Center for working with us to maintain the continuity of care for patients in West Niagara.

Please note:

The emergency department, day clinics, inpatient care and diagnostics remain open.

**Information about initiatives underway at WLMH, including accelerated planning for the new hospital and the CT scanner, is available at [www.wlmh.ca](http://www.wlmh.ca)**

