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| |  | | --- | | RCM Alert |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | RCM WEBSITE | |  | |  | | --- | | UPCOMING EVENTS | |  | |  | | --- | | NEWS | |  | |  | | --- | | LEARNING & CAREER | |  |  | | --- | |  |  |  | | --- | | **Health and Safety Representatives COVID inspection update** |  |  | | --- | | Dear Health and Safety Rep,    We hope you are well and want to say a huge thank you for the work you have been doing for RCM members.  We have recently put a [call out to all England NHS CEOs](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/Md0rC82g4swv3kike2ky?domain=r1.dmtrk.net) for assurance and evidence that health and safety regulations were met over the past year, throughout the pandemic. This was supported by Directors and Heads of, who have raised concerns around compliance with the [NHS guidance on supporting partners](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/2yItC9rj4TY3nOt4myS5?domain=r1.dmtrk.net) attending with women using maternity services during the pandemic.  There will be an opportunity to discuss this in our next virtual update meeting on 26 March, which you can [book here](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/8AAlC0RMQTrovysz2nPM?domain=r1.dmtrk.net). Further information will also be provided in the fortnightly activists’ newsletters and we encourage you to speak with your Regional Officer if you have any questions or concerns. We have put together a short update and list of suggested actions you can take below.  We understand that for some, the job of collating the information has fallen to midwifery managers and workplace representatives. However, the information should be easily available through the Trust health and safety leads and or Health and Safety Executive committee. We hope to share case studies of good practice examples, so do share your positive findings too.  Here is our update so far and suggested actions you can take:  **Latest updates**   * Current NHS guidance can be found [here](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/2yItC9rj4TY3nOt4myS5?domain=r1.dmtrk.net). * The RCM supports a woman having a birth partner present (who is not COVID positive). We developed [10 common sense principles](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/fEK2CgJyzTY06BtDGG2L?domain=r1.dmtrk.net) to support safe visiting. * We are expecting further national guidance to be published and will seek to ensure the safety of staff is a priority.   **Suggested actions**   * Please discuss at the next H&S committee meeting at Board/directorate/divisional levels – whichever comes first - you should be able to get a sense check on how your Trust is intending to respond if not already done so. * Speak with your HoM to ensure the information needed is easily accessible. It would also be good to talk with them more generally about the [benefits of partnership working](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/zQ6wCjRBDTy5EOSkWKUd?domain=r1.dmtrk.net) too. * Speak to RCM members and find out if they have any specific health and safety concerns – you could organise a branch virtual meeting. * If you have not carried out a workplace inspection, this is a good place to start. You have a legal right to arrange and carry out your own site inspections around your maternity unit – to do this you will need to arrange with the relevant managers. You should write in advance to arrange a time for the inspection, it may be a good idea to carry out a joint inspection but remember that staff should also have the opportunity to speak with you privately. * You can access the Safety Representatives and Safety Committees Regulations 1997 and Health and Safety (consultation with Employees) Regulations 1996 Approved Codes of Practice and Guidance via the [HSE website](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/_teLCkRgETqWlwCoFS4o?domain=r1.dmtrk.net). * Regulations also cover your [right to time off with pay](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/_teLCkRgETqWlwCoFS4o?domain=r1.dmtrk.net) during working hours to carry out your duties. * Ask for support from other H&S reps to carry out inspection. It helps if you are new to the role or helps to have a fresh pair of eyes. * Your NHS trust may have a standard form to complete on workplace inspections but if not the Health and Safety Executive provide information and report forms for [representatives](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/FxnjClY0GuznGMuPLmmW?domain=r1.dmtrk.net) and [inspections](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/LhutCmZkJsRJXMTvR1k4?domain=r1.dmtrk.net).   Please see list of [considerations when conducting a workplace inspection](https://protect-eu.mimecast.com/s/MWxACn5lKf6OwWuqobT-?domain=r1.dmtrk.net).  If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to contact your Regional Officer. We know how busy you are but please do continue to feedback any health and safety concerns in your trust. It is valuable information that enables us to represent our members and you effectively.  Best wishes,  Jon Skewes Executive Director of External Relations |  |  | | --- | |  | | |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | ***The Royal College of Midwives*** | |  |  | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |  | | --- | |  | | |  | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | | | |  |  | | --- | | **© The Royal College of Midwives, 15 Mansfield St, London, W1G 9NH**  **Tel: 0300 303 0444**  The Royal College of Midwives, a company limited by guarantee, registration number 30157.  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