Due to the fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, processes may be changed in response to the level of risk/threat from the virus.

Our goal in these difficult times are to protect mother, baby, and other parents and babies on the Maternity Unit, and all staff working in the unit. Given that asymptomatic people may not know they have COVID-19, all precautions are being taken to minimise COVID-19 transmission and to keep everyone safe. We are doing all we can, therefore, to reduce the number of people in Maternity and discharge mothers and their babies as soon as it is safe.

Call Maternity before you leave
When you go into labour, call the Maternity Unit on 239-2016 to advise them you are coming in. You and your support person will be screened for COVID-19 risk factors over the phone.

How do I get to Maternity during the Shelter in Place?
Expectant mothers, like emergency patients, are allowed to travel on the roads to KEMH during this time. If you are stopped, explain where you are going and why and they will let you pass.

Who can come?
You can have one support person who can be with you in your room prior to the birth and support you during labour and delivery, as long as they are not COVID-19 positive, suspected COVID-19 positive or in quarantine. Doulas are no longer allowed as additional support. We are sorry, but support people who are COVID-19 positive, suspected or in quarantine are not allowed in the Maternity Unit.

Arriving at KEMH
Go through the Emergency Department entrance. If you have a mask, put it on before you enter. Otherwise the Maternity nurse will bring you one when they come to pick you up. Use the alcohol sanitizer to clean your hands.

Go to the Security Desk and ask the security guard to call the Maternity Unit. A Maternity nurse will come down to get you. Do not go to the Emergency Department admissions desk or waiting area. Wait to the left of the Security Desk, where the vending machines are. The nurse will immediately come down to you, but this may take a few minutes.
Labour and delivery
Please be prepared that we will wear protective equipment and masks. Your support person may stay with you in your labour and delivery room. Precautions will be taken with all expectant mothers in case they are asymptomatic and do not know they have COVID-19. Expectant mothers who are known to be COVID-19 positive will use rooms in Maternity reserved for COVID-19 patients. Support people who are COVID-19 positive, suspected or in quarantine are not allowed in the Maternity Unit.

After the birth
We know this can a beautiful time for parents to bond with their new baby. We do, however, have to keep the number of people in Maternity to a minimum. If support persons are asymptomatic and do not know they have COVID-19, they are a risk to staff and other parents and babies in the unit. We therefore ask that your support person leaves two hours after the birth of the baby, when you are transferred from labour and delivery to your room on the Maternity Unit.

How long can my support person stay? Who else can visit?
To minimise the number of people in the Maternity Unit and ensure physical (social) distancing at all times, the support person will need to leave two hours after the birth. Remember to bring your smart phone or mobile device with you. BHB has free WiFi and you can share photos and talk on video and phone with your friends and family. We will do all we can to support you during your stay, and recognise you may need more care from us.

Visitors
We are not allowing visitors after the birth, and children are not permitted. Parents may visit in the Special Care Baby Unit (SCBU) one at a time.

Discharge
For the personal safety of mother and baby, and so they can be fully supported by their loved ones, discharges back home will be expedited if safe to do so. After a vaginal birth, the goal will be to discharge mothers two days after birth. Women who require c-sections will be discharged after two days if meeting clinical milestones and feeling well.