

NS/RS/MC

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25th September 2024

Ms Roisin Shortall TD,
Dàil Éireann,
Leinster House,
Kildare Street,
Dublin 2

PQ 35901/24

To ask the Minister for Health the reason a maternity hospital is still operating pandemic-related visitor restrictions (details supplied); if there are plans to end this policy; and if he will make a statement on the matter. -Róisín Shortall

Details supplied: I understand that University Maternity Hospital Limerick is still operating pandemic-related visitor restrictions, despite the removal of such restrictions in many other maternity hospitals. I appreciate that maternity hospitals may need to apply temporarily restrictions on visitors during outbreaks but I cannot understand why such restrictions are in place on an ongoing basis.

Dear Deputy Shortall,

The Health Service Executive has been requested to reply directly to you in the context of the above Parliamentary Question which you submitted to the Minister for Health for response.

I have been in contact with the relevant staff and I have been informed that University Maternity Hospital Limerick (UMHL) no longer operates under the visiting restrictions imposed during the COVID – 19 pandemic. Our policy was reviewed on the 18th April 2023 and partners have access to the following areas:

- Access to inpatient wards from 8am to 9pm
- Antenatal Clinic
- Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit (EPAU)
- Emergency high risk admissions
- 12 week dating scan
- 22 to 24 weeks anomaly scan
- 32 to 34 weeks growth scan
- Labour Ward throughout labour and delivery
- Theatre including elective and emergency C-Section
- Antenatal Ward and Postnatal Wards
- Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) and High Dependency Unit (HDU)



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St. Nessian's Road, Dooradoyle, Limerick V94 F858
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We are planning to reintroduce visiting time for grandparents, which we hope to have in place in October 2024. In addition, access for extended family members on compassionate grounds is facilitated.

I trust this clarifies the position, please contact me if you have any further queries.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Noreen Spillane
Acting Chief Executive Officer
UL Hospitals Group

