

Emory Healthcare Obstetric (OB) Tour FAQs

Thank you for choosing Emory Healthcare. Our dedicated professionals are working with you to ensure that each birth is a positive experience for both you and your baby. Read below for our frequently asked questions. If you have any additional questions, please email health.connection@emoryhealthcare.org, and we will get back to you.

General COVID-19 Information (Guidelines may change)

- Masking is required in all Emory facilities. We ask that both you and your support person wear a mask whenever in and around the hospital.
- You are allowed one healthy support person during your stay. You are allowed a second support person for a vaginal delivery *only during your labor and delivery*. *If you are having a scheduled C-section, only one support person is allowed, not two*).
- Upon arrival, you and your support person(s) will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.
- If you are admitted to Labor & Delivery (L&D), you will have a COVID-19 nasal swab test. (If you have a scheduled C-section or induction, a COVID-19 nasal swab test will be scheduled with you a couple of days in advance.)
- All our clinical sites have an Infection Prevention and Control team to ensure patient safety. We will wear protective equipment when taking care of you. In addition, we will wipe down commonly used areas several times a day with disinfectants. Emory Healthcare will continue to work with state and local officials to stay informed on the latest developments.
- For all other COVID-19 related questions regarding screenings, tests, and questions, we encourage you to visit our [Safety Center & COVID-19 Resources](#) page. We are committed to providing clear recommendations and guidance. Please check back regularly for the most up-to-date information on screening and other questions.

When arriving at the hospital, where do I park and register?

- **Emory University Hospital Midtown:** When arriving to the hospital while in labor, park in the Visitor Parking Deck* and exit the elevators on Level F. Turn left and cross the pedestrian bridge that leads into the hospital. You'll walk into a main waiting area. Walk past the escalators to the elevators located on the left. You will then head to the 3rd floor registration where they will check you in. Please wait in this area until they call you back to triage for further evaluation. *If you think you are having an emergency, go directly to the Emergency Department. They will escort you to Labor & Delivery right away.*
** Parking fees start at \$6 per hour and go up to \$16/day. There is also a \$25 weekly pass available - it can only be purchased in the parking garage office (located on Level B) between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday – Friday, with correct cash or a credit card. Unfortunately, it cannot be purchased in advance or electronically. (Pull a parking ticket and park; BEFORE EXITING, bring ticket to office to buy the pass, if desired).*
- **Emory Johns Creek Hospital:** Between 5 a.m. – 9 p.m., when you first enter our campus, you may park in the parking lot that is closest to the front of the main hospital entrance. Between 9 p.m. – 5 a.m., we ask that you enter through our Emergency Department. You will be greeted and will be seen for further evaluation. *If you are experiencing an emergency, please go directly to our Emergency Department.*
- **Emory Decatur Hospital:** When you first enter our campus, you will park underneath the Dr. Bobbie Bailey Tower located at 2701 North Decatur Road. Take the elevator to the second floor, make a left as soon as you exit the elevator, and you'll see the registration desk to your left. *If you think you are having an emergency, please pull in front of the Dr. Bobbie Bailey Tower, and we will escort you.*

What should I bring with me to the hospital?

- Please bring a photo ID and insurance card to the hospital.
- During your stay, we will provide most-needed supplies (i.e., pads, mesh underwear, diapers and wipes) for you and your baby. You are responsible for bringing an outfit for yourself and baby when you are ready to leave the hospital. We ask that you keep all valuables at home. Please [click here](#) for a full list of suggested items to bring with you to the hospital.
- Please choose and purchase a car seat, and practice using the car seat before coming to the hospital. Pre-install the car seat yourself or go to seatcheck.org to find a nearby car seat installation center PRIOR to coming to the hospital. If your baby is born prematurely (at least 3 weeks), we will need to do extra testing with your car seat and base, and you'll need to bring both inside with you for testing. Hospital employees cannot install or assist with car seat operation.
- We do provide peanut balls for labor. Please ask your nurse if one is available. You are welcome to bring your own labor ball or other helpful labor devices. You are welcome to play music (as long as it's played at a respectful volume), utilize aromatherapy and LED candles while in labor as well as bring your favorite pillow/blanket (we do provide pillows and blankets for our patients and support person).

What can I expect during my stay?

- In our OB triage area, you will meet with a midwife or nurse who will gather general information about your health and symptoms and assess your labor. If results show you are not in labor yet, you may be able to return home.
- All our Labor & Delivery and Mother-Baby rooms are private rooms that include bathrooms and a sofa bed or window seat bed. All rooms have showers but not tubs. Note that just before and after a C-section, you will be in the pre/post-operative recovery area where there may be other patients (divided by curtains).
- Only photographs are allowed during your delivery; no videotaping is allowed during delivery.
- For the safety of our infants, all our units remain locked at all times. After delivery, the baby will receive two ID bands. Additionally, you and your support person will receive one ID band each. All ID bands will match. **Leave ID bands on until ALL of you are home.** Your baby will also wear a security band.
- You will remain on the L&D unit after your delivery to recover before heading to your Mother-Baby room – typically this is 1-2 hours after a vaginal birth and 2-4 hours after a C-section.
- You will be provided a menu for room service for three meals a day (this applies to patients only).
- A typical hospital stay is one to two days after vaginal delivery and two to three days after a C-section.

Does Emory Healthcare perform water births?

- Emory Healthcare does not perform water births.

Questions about cord blood?

- Delayed cord clamping is recommended for 30-60 seconds after delivery (vaginal and C-section) if you and your baby are healthy.
- Your baby's umbilical cord blood is stem-cell rich and may be used for transplantation in patients with life-threatening disorders such as leukemia, lymphoma, and immune system disorders.
- If you wish to donate your cord blood to a **public cord blood center** that collects, processes, stores and distributes cord blood to those who need it, this opportunity is available (only at Emory University Hospital Midtown). Please inform your L&D nurse and provider when you are at the hospital for delivery.
- Or, if you prefer, you can make arrangements prior to delivery to have your cord blood stored at a **private cord blood bank for your family's use**. Please make your nurse or provider aware of your plan for private cord blood banking when you come to the hospital for delivery and bring any necessary kits or supplies you have been given with you by that private cord bank.

Does Emory Healthcare support breastfeeding?

- Emory Healthcare supports breastfeeding and provides education and lactation support for you to help with feeding your baby successfully. If you and your baby are healthy, we encourage skin-to-skin contact for one hour after delivery to support bonding and facilitate breastfeeding. Assessments on your baby can be done during skin-to-skin time. If you and baby are healthy, the baby will be able to stay in the room with you your entire stay, so you can learn your baby's feeding cues and feed on-demand. All our nurses are trained in infant feeding best practices. If you should need additional, specialized help with feeding for your baby, we do have lactation consultants onsite. *It is important to note, that mothers who make an informed choice to formula feed will be supported and their decision will be respected by Emory Healthcare.*
- Please do not bring your own breast pump to the hospital. If a breast pump is needed, the hospital will provide one.
- Please do not bring your breastfeeding pillow to the hospital; we prefer to use our pillows.

Can I take my placenta home?

- If you're planning to take your placenta home, please inform your L&D nurse and provider before your delivery; this may be possible if the placenta does not need to be evaluated in the lab. The placenta must remain in the L&D unit and can only be released to one of your family members who can take it home for you.
- We do not allow you to bring your placenta up to the Mother-Baby unit. It is not safe to ingest any portion of your placenta.

Is there a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) onsite?

- All our delivering facilities have a Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit if your baby needs extra care before going home. This is typical for premature babies or those that may need additional monitoring. Our NICU has specially trained staff who can attend to newborns in need.

Can I have my baby circumcised at the hospital?

- If desired; circumcision is performed by your obstetric or neonatal provider. Most providers will do this in the hospital; however, some may complete this in their office during the week after delivery. Please check with your provider before your due date regarding their typical practice for this procedure.

When do I choose a pediatrician?

- BEFORE you deliver, take a moment to choose your baby's pediatrician. Pediatricians on staff will care for your baby while in the hospital, but it will be up to you to select a pediatrician for all follow-up appointments once you leave the hospital.

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