

Media Release

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Birthing room upgrade at Waitākere Hospital Maternity Unit

An 18-month upgrade of the birthing rooms at Waitākere Hospital's maternity unit is now underway. The planned changes will improve the experience of families giving birth in West Auckland.

The upgrade includes the redesign of birthing rooms to create more space and the addition of an ensuite bathroom in each.

The first phase of the project, which began on Wednesday, is the development of a new negative pressure room, also known as an isolation room. This will allow expectant parents who present with COVID-19 or other infectious illnesses to still give birth locally and provides a safer working environment for staff while protecting other families.

Over the life of the project, different areas will be opened and closed to allow the works to progress. At all times at least six birth rooms will be kept open, minimising disruption as much as possible to families giving birth. There is also a contingency to transfer families to North Shore Hospital if needed but this will only be considered where there is a clear clinical need and if it is safe to do so.

"We understand that the building works will cause some disruption but our aim is to complete the work as quickly as possible so families can enjoy the improved facilities," says Director of Midwifery Emma Farmer.

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