

News Release:

Madison Health to close Birthing Center at the end of 2020



a partnership with



All labor and delivery services will transition to Mount Carmel Grove City

For Immediate Release

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Media Contact:

Cindy Stout | 740.845.7018 | cstout@madison-health.com

Madison Health has announced plans to close its inpatient labor and delivery unit effective December 31, 2020.

After an extensive assessment of maternity services, Madison Health will transition the labor and delivery portion to its partners at Mount Carmel Grove City at year's end. This transition will allow expectant mothers the opportunity to deliver in a beautiful maternity center at Mount Carmel, with access to medical professionals who deliver thousands of babies each year. They will also have access to an around-the-clock team of expert neonatologists, if needed. All pre- and post-natal care will continue to be provided at Madison Health.

The decision to transition labor and delivery services has been coming for some time, due to increased demands and changing regulations on all Level I nurseries, such as the Birthing Center at Madison Health. Rural hospitals have also experienced a dramatic decrease in births and it has become increasingly difficult to find obstetricians willing to provide the required 24/7 coverage. In addition to these challenges, Madison Health's lead OB-GYN, Dr. Mitchell Spahn, recently announced plans to relocate to Charlotte, North Carolina. These combined barriers prompted conversations about the opportunity to transition services to Mount Carmel.

"This decision has been extremely difficult and it's one none of us wanted to make," said Madison Health CEO Dana Engle. "Unfortunately, we've exhausted all options and transitioning these services to Mount Carmel is the right thing to do. I also want to be very clear that this decision is not a reflection on the quality of care our OB-GYN physicians, and labor and delivery nurses have provided. We consider them among the best of the best and we know this will be very difficult for them."

Madison Health leadership has met with impacted staff to discuss potential job opportunities within Mount Carmel, The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center and Madison Health.

Madison Health OB-GYN Dr. Jennifer Powell will continue to practice in her London office and provide gynecological surgeries at Madison Health. She will now perform deliveries at Mount Carmel Grove City, which is located just 25 minutes from London. Madison Health will provide service coordination assistance to expectant mothers as needed.

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As Madison Health continues to focus on growth, Engle said the organization remains committed to the community.

“We are very grateful to those who have trusted us to care for their families and we look forward to doing that for many years to come.”

For more information about Madison Health’s Birthing Center closure, please call 740.845.7018.

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