

Suspected/Positive COVID-19: Labour and Birthing

What is COVID-19?

A new or novel strain of coronavirus was identified in late 2019, and has now spread across the globe. The World Health Organization has named this novel coronavirus COVID-19 and has declared the outbreak a pandemic. The healthcare team caring for you during your labour will be wearing a face mask, a gown and gloves to protect themselves, you and your baby.

Can COVID-19 Be Passed from a Pregnant Woman to the Fetus/Newborn?

We still do not know if a pregnant woman with COVID-19 can pass the virus to her fetus during pregnancy. Given the low risk of transmission at the time of delivery we advise mom and babies to stay together with appropriate infection control procedures. Staff will provide patient teaching in these circumstances.

Planning for the Arrival of Your Baby

Before your delivery occurs your doctor/midwife will have an informed discussion with you to discuss COVID-19 and current protocols.

Feeding Your Baby

If you wish to feed your baby by breast, you must put on a face mask, wash your hands, breasts and abdomen with warm soap and water before each feeding. If you choose to formula feed your baby you should put on a mask and perform hand hygiene.

Discharge from Hospital

You may be discharged home with your baby. We ask that you consider the following recommendations at home while caring for your newborn baby. Follow the same feeding guidelines as listed above. Consider keeping a distance between you and your baby of six feet or two meters when not caring for your infant. If no other healthy adult is present to care for your baby, your face mask should remain in place during all contact until your symptoms are gone.