



COVID-19 INFORMATION FOR PRACTISING MIDWIVES

March 16, 2020

Clinical Resources

The most important resource for health practitioners in Manitoba is the [Shared Health Provincial Coronavirus Resources](#) page, which offers guidance to health professionals on COVID-19 and is updated on an ongoing basis. This includes advice for health care providers who have recently returned from international travel. Please refer to this site regularly.

Practice Standards

We recognize that in the current circumstances you may not be able to meet all College standards and that there may be a need for you to adjust your practice to be able to provide appropriate care to your clients and their newborns. You should exercise your professional judgment, in every situation, to provide care that is in your clients' best interest within the limits of the midwifery scope of practice and your competence in line with the current guidance available from Public Health, Manitoba Health, and your Regional Health Authority. We encourage you to work collaboratively with your peers and other health care practitioners to implement enhanced infection prevention and control measures to protect yourself and your clients from infection risks. It is essential that everyone follows provincial public health directions and guidance.

If you cannot meet a standard of the profession, ensure that your clients receive the best care possible in the current circumstances and document your rationale for the decision you made. You remain accountable and responsible for clients in your care and your professional decisions and actions must be justifiable at all times. If you have any questions about meeting any CMM Standards or other College requirements, please contact the College at registrar@midwives.mb.ca.

Collecting Nasopharyngeal Swabs

The CMM has received inquiries regarding midwives' authority to collect nasopharyngeal swabs for COVID-19 testing. The act of collecting nasopharyngeal swabs is not listed on Schedule C (Minor Surgical and Invasive procedures) of the Midwifery legislation, nor is COVID-19 testing listed on Schedule A (Laboratory and Diagnostic Tests). Should your RHA request that midwives provide either of these services they may do so under a Standing Order. Midwives should only provide these services in conjunction with appropriate training and personal protective equipment. In addition, midwives should only do so if they can ensure the appropriate follow up with medical practitioners and public health authorities who can follow through with treatment and monitoring. Many locations in the province are setting up dedicated testing sites and midwives should follow their local recommendations re: where testing should take place.

Thank you for your continued commitment to providing care to Manitobans during this challenging time.