



## COVID-19: Information for Midwifery Clients

April 20, 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic is changing the way care is being provided by midwives, and the College would like to assure you that we will continue to ensure that your safety is prioritized.

We understand that this is a stressful time for everyone and may be particularly stressful for those who are pregnant or caring for a newborn. We have provided frequently asked questions below to help answer some of your questions.

### [Why has my midwife cancelled some of my appointments?](#)

On Sunday, March 22, 2020, Manitoba's Chief Public Health Officer issued a directive to all regulated health professionals to stop providing non-essential services during the COVID-19 pandemic. This means that midwives are required to cancel any appointments that they deem non-essential. This directive is meant to help you and your midwife stay safe throughout the pandemic by limiting person-to-person exposure. Your midwife has the necessary knowledge and skills to determine what care is essential for you and your newborn to receive at every stage of care. Your midwifery practice will continue to stay on call for you 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, so your questions and concerns can always be addressed.

### [How will I be protected during in-person visits and when I am in labour?](#)

Midwives have the required knowledge, skills and equipment to use infection prevention and control measures while practising. They will use their judgment to limit direct contact during in-person visits and will use the recommended personal protective equipment (such as gloves and in some cases, masks, goggles and gowns) in order to protect you and your family. Midwives receive guidance from Manitoba Health and their regional health authority regarding recommended use of personal protective equipment.

### [Can my midwife provide care by phone or other virtual processes?](#)

Yes, and during the COVID-19 pandemic the College encourages midwives to provide care remotely when it is acceptable to do so. You can help by paying close attention to your health and report your findings to your midwife. Examples of questions your midwife may ask you to keep track of are your temperature, the frequency of fetal movements (kicks or rolls) felt within a specific timeframe, or how many times your newborn has fed and passed urine or stool in the past 24 hours. There are many ways midwives can assess your overall wellbeing, and that of your newborn, over the phone or by videoconference.

### [Can I still give birth at home or at the birth centre?](#)

Your midwife will continuously assess your health and provide evidence-based recommendations regarding your chosen place of birth. At this time, there is no evidence to make a broad or general recommendation against home or birth centre births.

Is the College still open during the pandemic?

As of March 17, 2020, the College transitioned into a virtual office and the physical office location was temporarily closed to the public. During this time, the College is continuing to provide its services with limited disruptions.

Is the College processing complaints during the pandemic?

The College will continue to process complaints and investigate concerns during this time. The College does however recognize that certain timelines may be impacted as a result of the current environment.