

INFORMATION REGARDING FERTILITY TREATMENT DURING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) PANDEMIC

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving pandemic. At this time, very little is known about COVID-19, particularly related to its effect on pregnant women. At the present time, there are no recommendations specific to pregnant women regarding the evaluation and management of COVID-19.

- **There is very little known regarding a pregnant woman's susceptibility to catching COVID-19.** The currently available data on COVID-19 does not indicate that pregnant women are at increased risk. However, pregnant women are more susceptible to and at greater risk of mortality and complications from other respiratory infections such as influenza and SARS.
- **There is little known regarding the impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy.** Prior data suggest that high fever in early pregnancy may be associated with an increased risk of birth defects and miscarriage. Some infections in later pregnancy may result in stillbirth and preterm birth.

Adverse infant outcomes including pre-term birth have been reported among infants born to mothers positive for COVID-19 during late pregnancy. However, this information is based on limited data and it is not clear whether these outcomes were directly related to maternal infection or not. Currently, it is unclear if COVID-19 can cross the placenta to directly harm the fetus. Although it is unclear what the optimal medical treatments are for this infection, a variety of medications are used to combat the illness. It is possible some of these medications may cause harm to the pregnancy or fetus.

For those seeking fertility treatments it is important to know:

1. At the present CARE FERTILITY does not have access to testing for COVID-19.
2. If you are directly exposed, infected or diagnosed with COVID-19, or have symptoms with any febrile illness or have flu like symptoms which could possibly be COVID-19 (even in the absence of a positive COVID-19 test), your treatment cycle will be cancelled.
3. Your treatment cycle may be cancelled if CARE FERTILITY is not able to support treatment as a result lack of essential staff or supply shortages.
4. Your treatment cycle may be cancelled if there is change in regulations at the local, state, or federal level such as an edict to stop providing services or procedures, or CARE FERTILITY is required to shut down.
5. You may become exposed to COVID-19 while receiving treatment by other patients or a CARE FERTILITY provider.

6. The risks of COVID-19 on pregnancy, if any, are unknown but could include, birth defects, miscarriage, stillbirth, preterm birth or other pregnancy complications.
7. Your treatment cycle may be cancelled if new data arises that mandates cancellation of treatment for the safety of me or my future pregnancy.
8. You have the option to postpone treatment in order to minimize the potential risks delineated above.

If the cycle is cancelled for any reason, including but not limited to the statements above, this may affect your insurance benefits and or you may be financially responsible for any services performed, including any medication expenses incurred.

You have an opportunity to ask questions and have them answered to your satisfaction. The understanding of this disease is rapidly evolving and new risks may come to light.