



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES
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TRENTON, N.J. 08625-0364

PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

Dear Health Care Provider,

The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH) is partnering with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help protect mothers and babies from the consequences of public health emergencies.

As you know, there is a global pandemic of respiratory illness called Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by a novel coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2). At present, we have very limited information from published scientific reports regarding whether pregnant women are at risk of more severe disease from SARS-CoV-2 infection compared with the general public. We also do not yet know much about whether infants born to women with COVID-19 experience more adverse health outcomes compared to infants born to uninfected mothers.

The DOH, in collaboration with CDC, is monitoring pregnant women who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 through the end of their pregnancy, including birth outcomes of their infant(s). By collecting existing laboratory and clinical information on these mothers and infants, we will be able to characterize the spectrum of health effects associated with SARS-CoV-2 infection during pregnancy to inform clinical guidance, programs, and services.

DOH staff are working with hospital Health Information Management Departments and are currently abstracting data from medical records for cases where delivery has already occurred. We are asking for your assistance, since current DOH procedures for identifying infected pregnant women so far have not taken into account the health outcomes of infants born to these women past initial screenings performed in the hours or days immediately after birth. Direct reporting on these infants by the pediatric community in the months following birth will ensure that all health outcomes for mothers and their babies can be assessed during this effort.

How you can help:

- Use the attached Case Ascertainment Form to notify the DOH of infant outcomes in cases known to your practice to capture 2-month and 6-month visit outcomes OR
- Respond promptly to DOH staff requests for copies of your medical records or access to your electronic medical records system so program staff can review outcomes.

CDC Web Resources:

- [Considerations for Inpatient Obstetric Healthcare Settings](#)
- [Pregnancy & Breastfeeding](#)
- Additional information on CDC recommended management and treatment of COVID-19 can be found here: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/hcp/index.html>

NJ Resources:

- [New Jersey COVID-19 Information Hub](#)

- Recommendations of the New Jersey Perinatal Care During COVID-19 Work Group

Patient Confidentiality

As a healthcare provider, you are a covered entity under the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA). Under the HIPAA Privacy Rule,* you may disclose, without prior authorization, protected health information to public health authorities, such as CDC and state health departments, for the purpose of preventing or controlling disease. However, any patient has the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of their protected health information made by a covered entity.

Please contact the pediatric project lead, Chi Amonu, at Chinemenma.Amonu@doh.nj.gov or 609-913-5482 with any questions. We appreciate your time and attention to this important public health issue and efforts to protect mothers and babies.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Gorney-Daley, DO, MPH
Medical Director
Maternal and Child Health Services



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COVID-19 Pregnancy Outcomes Lead
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* HIPAA Privacy rule: <https://www.hhs.gov/hipaa/for-professionals/privacy/index.html>
HIPAA regulatory
text: <https://www.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ocr/privacy/hipaa/administrative/combined/hipaa-simplification-201303.pdf>