



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
 DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES
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PHILIP D. MURPHY
Governor

SHEILA Y. OLIVER
Lt. Governor

www.nj.gov/health

JUDITH M. PERSICILLI, RN, BSN, MA
Commissioner

Dear Health Care Practitioner:

The New Jersey Department of Health 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 do not have information from published scientific reports regarding whether pregnant women are more susceptible to infection or more severe disease from SARS-CoV-2 infection compared with the general public. We also have very limited information on adverse pregnancy and infant outcomes among pregnant women with COVID-19.

The New Jersey Department of Health (DOH), in collaboration with CDC will monitor pregnant women who test positive for SARS-CoV-2 through the end of their pregnancy, including birth and neonatal 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.

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. Any patient has the right to receive an accounting of disclosures of their protected health information made by a covered entity.

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	 Kathryn P. Aveni, RNC, MPH COVID-19 Pregnancy Outcomes Lead Data Systems Coordinator Special Child Health and Early Intervention Services
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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>