



State of New Jersey
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF FAMILY HEALTH SERVICES
PO BOX 364
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

June 22, 2020

Dear Healthcare Provider,

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 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 have already begun to work 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 are likely to miss some cases. In particular, our current case ascertainment may miss women with COVID-19 in early pregnancy who have an uncomplicated spontaneous or induced abortion before 20 weeks gestation. Direct reporting of known cases to DOH by the obstetric community will ensure that all outcomes, including early pregnancy losses, can be assessed during this effort.

How you can help:

- Use the attached Case Ascertainment Form to notify the DOH of new cases where the delivery occurs at your facility.
- Please attend this webinar or listen to the webinar recording which will discuss the project in more detail. The live broadcast will be on Tuesday, June 30th, 3:30-4:30 pm
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/668500178922867983>

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 project lead, Kathy Aveni, at 609-575-8418 or Kathryn.Aveni@doh.nj.gov 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



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

* 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>