

# Pregnancy and COVID-19

## Frequently asked questions

We understand you have questions about your pregnancy and coronavirus, also called COVID-19. Just discovered in December 2019, we are learning more about COVID-19 every day. With help from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, we are providing answers to frequently asked questions to help you understand how to monitor and manage your pregnancy during the coronavirus outbreak. We've also included helpful information about Tidelands Health services.

### **What is the risk to pregnant women of getting COVID-19? Is it easier for pregnant women to become ill with the disease? If they become infected, will they be more sick than other people?**

We don't currently know if pregnant women have a greater chance of getting sick from COVID-19 than the general public nor whether they are more likely to have serious illness as a result. Pregnant women experience changes in their bodies that may increase their risk of some infections. With viruses from the same family as COVID-19 and other viral respiratory infections, such as influenza, women have had a higher risk of developing severe illness. It is always important for pregnant women to protect themselves from illnesses.

### **How can pregnant women protect themselves from getting COVID-19?**

Pregnant women should do the same things as the general public to avoid infection. You can help stop the spread of COVID-19 by taking these actions:

- Cover your cough (using your elbow is a good technique)
- Practice social distancing and keep six feet between you and others.
- Avoid people who are sick
- Clean your hands often using soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer

### **Can COVID-19 cause problems for a pregnancy?**

We do not know at this time what, if any, risk is posed to infants of a pregnant woman who has COVID-19. There have been a small number of reported problems with pregnancy or delivery (e.g. preterm birth) in babies born to mothers who tested positive for COVID-19 during their pregnancy. However, it is not clear that these outcomes were related to maternal infection.

*Last updated March 17, 2020. Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>.*

### **Can COVID-19 be passed from a pregnant woman to the fetus or newborn?**

Mother-to-child transmission of coronavirus during pregnancy is unlikely, but after birth a newborn is susceptible to person-to-person spread. A very small number of babies have tested positive for the virus shortly after birth. However, it is unknown if these babies got the virus before or after birth. The virus has not been detected in amniotic fluid, breastmilk or other maternal samples.

*Last updated April 03, 2020. Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html>.*

### **If a pregnant woman has COVID-19 during pregnancy, will it hurt the baby?**

We do not know at this time what if any risk is posed to infants of a pregnant woman who has COVID-19. There have been a small number of reported problems with pregnancy or delivery, including preterm birth in babies born to mothers who tested positive for COVID-19 during their pregnancy. It's not clear that these outcomes were related to maternal infection.

### **What should I do if I have symptoms of coronavirus?**

If you experience fever, cough or shortness of breath, call your primary care physician to make an appointment to be seen. If you are unsure about your symptoms, you can call Tideldands Health Women's Center any time at 843-546-3132.

### **What do I do if I go into labor?**

Labor and delivery services at Tideldands Georgetown Memorial Hospital have been temporarily relocated to Tideldands Waccamaw Community Hospital. **Planned, non-emergency deliveries will occur at Tideldands Waccamaw. Emergency labor and delivery services will continue to be provided at Tideldands Georgetown.**

### **What entrance should I use when I get to the hospital?**

Some public entrances are temporarily closed. Please use the main entrance or emergency department entrance at Tideldands Waccamaw Community Hospital and the emergency department entrance at Tideldands Georgetown Memorial Hospital. We have maps available to guide you; please ask for one if needed.

### **Are visitors allowed in the hospital after my delivery?**

With the confirmation of COVID-19 cases in our region, we are increasing visitor restrictions at our hospitals. You may have one adult visitor in the hospital building at a time. This should be a visitor who helps with your care, not a social visitor. If "switching out," the next visitor should wait in the parking lot – not inside the hospital. No one under age 18 or over age 69 may visit. All approved visitors will be screened for coronavirus symptoms and have their temperature taken.

### **Where do I go for a fetal non-stress test?**

This service is provided at both Tideldands Health Women's Center locations:

#### **Tideldands Health Women's Center at Georgetown**

Tideldands Georgetown Memorial Hospital, third floor Suite 300  
606 Black River Road, Georgetown  
Phone: 843-546-3132

#### **Tideldands Health Women's Center at Holmestown Road**

4320 Holmestown Road, Myrtle Beach  
Phone: 843-546-3132

### **Where do I go for an ultrasound?**

This service is provided at both our practice locations listed above, plus these Tideldands Health Imaging locations:

#### **Tideldands Health Imaging at Waccamaw Medical Park West**

Suite 103  
4040 Highway 17 Bypass, Murrells Inlet  
Phone: 843-652-8230

#### **Tideldands Health Imaging at The Market Common**

2200 Crow Lane, Myrtle Beach  
Phone: 843-848-5101

**For more information about pregnancy and coronavirus, please visit [cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding).**



[tideldandshealth.org](https://www.tideldandshealth.org)

**Our mission:** We help people live better lives through better health.  
**Our vision:** We will be our region's first choice for health and wellness.  
**Our purpose:** Better health begins here.

**1-866-TIDELANDS**

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