

Patient Education

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Pregnancy ED

You must carefully read the "Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer" below in order to understand and correctly use this information

General Information

You came to the Emergency Department (ED) for signs of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19). You may be at a higher risk for early labor if you have COVID-19 while you are pregnant. You may be waiting on test results. The staff will notify you if there are concerning results.

COVID-19 spreads easily through droplets when you sneeze or cough. The germs also survive on surfaces like tables, door handles, and telephones. This means that others can become sick if they touch a surface with the virus and then touch their face.

What care is needed at home?

- Call your regular doctor to let them know you were in the ED. Make a follow-up appointment if you were told to.
- Drink lots of water, juice, or broth to replace fluids lost from a fever.
- Use a cool mist humidifier. This will make it easier to breathe.
- Use 2 to 3 pillows to prop yourself up when you lie down to make it easier to breathe and sleep.
- Do not smoke and do not drink beer, wine, or mixed drinks (alcohol).
- To lower the chance of passing the infection to others:
 - Wear a mask if you are around others who are not sick.
 - After your baby is born, wear a mask when you feed or hold your baby or pump breast milk for your baby.
 - Wash your hands often.
 - Stay home in a separate room, away from others. Only go out to get medical care.
 - Use a separate bathroom if possible.
 - Do not make food for others.

When do I need to get emergency help?

- **Call for an ambulance right away if:**
 - You have severe pain in your belly that continues after a contraction.
 - You have a very strong urge to push the baby out.
 - You are having so much trouble breathing that you can only say one or two words at a time.
 - You need to sit upright at all times to be able to breathe and or cannot lie down.

- **Return to the ED if:**
 - You have trouble breathing when talking or sitting still.

When do I need to call the doctor?

- You have very dark urine or do not urinate for more than 8 hours.
- Contractions every 10 minutes or more often.
- Low, dull back pain that does not go away.
- Pressure in your pelvis that feels like your baby is pushing down.
- Watery or bloody fluid leaking from your vagina
- Cramps in your lower belly that come and go or are constant.
- Your baby moves less than usual or stops moving.
- You have a fever of 100.4°F (38°C) or higher.
- Signs of a dangerous condition called "preeclampsia," such as a headache that is very bad or doesn't go away, changes in vision, or pain in the upper belly
- You have new or worsening symptoms.

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Consumer Information Use and Disclaimer:

This information is not specific medical advice and does not replace information you receive from your health care provider. This is only a brief summary of general information. It does NOT include all information about conditions, illnesses, injuries, tests, procedures, treatments, therapies, discharge instructions or life-style choices that may apply to you. You must talk with your health care provider for complete information about your health and treatment options. This information should not be used to decide whether or not to accept your health care provider's advice, instructions or recommendations. Only your health care provider has the knowledge and training to provide advice that is right for you.

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