

Re: COVID-19: Pregnant Women

While the CDC is currently reporting that there is a lack of scientific data about the susceptibility of pregnant women to COVID-19, it is acknowledged that pregnant women experience immunologic and physiologic changes which might make them more susceptible to viral respiratory infections including COVID-19.

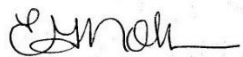
Pregnant women might be at risk for severe illness, morbidity, or mortality compared to the general public as observed in cases of other related coronavirus infections such as SARS and MERS and other viral respiratory infections such as influenza, during pregnancy. Therefore, pregnant women should engage in the usual preventive actions to avoid infection like washing hands often and avoiding people who are sick.

Additionally, the CDC and Maternal-Fetal-Medicine specialists agree that pregnant personnel should follow risk assessment and infection control guidelines at their place of employment. Information on COVID-19 in pregnancy is very limited.

Pregnant patients should limit potential exposure to confirmed or suspected COVID-19 positive patients. Therefore, during this pandemic, we support all efforts to limit pregnant exposure to the least number of patients which may include taking leave, FMLA, or a leave of absence until this pandemic shows signs of resolving.

Sincerely,

Heartland Women's Healthcare



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Chief Medical Officer