

# Coronavirus (Covid-19)

## Update August 2020.

As you will all be aware, we are now back in lockdown due to community transfer of COVID-19. Obstetric care is an essential service and Auckland Obstetric Centre will be open as usual. However, in accordance with government guidelines and Auckland hospital requirements, there will be some minor changes again in the way your care is provided. These measures are in place to ensure the safety of you, your families and our AOC family.

Novel coronavirus is the name given to the virus responsible for the current pandemic; Covid 19 is the disease this virus causes. There is no cure and currently no vaccine. Whilst the majority of people contracting Covid 19 will experience a flu like illness, approximately 10% will require hospital admission, and of that 10%, approximately 4% will need intensive care.

The current government response is to avoid the exponential rise in the numbers of patients requiring intensive care. If we can “flatten the curve” and “hold the line” we can avoid overwhelming medical services.

Some good news - pregnant women seem to be at no increased risk over and above the general population. There is no evidence of spread from an infected woman to her fetus and as such, no fetal abnormalities are expected following infection (unlike Zika.)

## What AOC is doing

- › Our rigorous cleaning protocols have been stepped up even further.
- › The waiting room has some changes to facilitate social distancing and reduce the risk of viral transmission.
- › Doctor rostering is changing to ensure continuity of your care and to allow for staff sickness.
- › **ALL CONTACT NUMBERS REMAIN THE SAME.**
- › **ONE OF OUR AOC DOCTORS WILL ALWAYS BE AVAILABLE FOR YOU DURING YOUR PREGNANCY AND IN LABOUR.**

## What we ask you to do

- › **PLEASE** leave partners, support people and children at home. Do **NOT** bring them with you into AOC for your appointment unless you are coming for your first booking visit or your Birth Talk appointment. They are welcome to facetime/speakerphone in. Clearly if there is a significant problem with you or your baby, then exceptions will be made for partners **OR** another support person.
- › If you are in self isolation or share a household with someone in self isolation, please **DO NOT COME IN.**
- › If you have been overseas in the last 2 weeks or share a household with someone who has been overseas in the last 2 weeks, please **DO NOT COME IN.**
- › If you have a cough, temperature or a cold, please phone AOC rooms on the morning of your appointment to discuss what to do.
- › Please email [reception@obstetrics.co.nz](mailto:reception@obstetrics.co.nz) if your preferred contact email has changed as a result of a change in your working arrangements.