

CORONAVIRUS and Childbirth

Throughout labour, childbirth and postpartum, all mothers and babies who have symptoms of coronavirus or are positive for coronavirus, have the right to:

- › high-quality, accessible healthcare
- › respectful treatment
- › free choice of companion during labour and birth
- › clear and respectful communication with healthcare providers
- › adequate methods for pain management
- › free choice of position and movement during labour and childbirth



Healthcare providers caring for women who have, or might have coronavirus must wear personal protective equipment and take all precautions to limit spreading the infection – they should wear protective equipment, not the women giving birth.

Do women who have coronavirus, or symptoms of coronavirus have to give birth by caesarean section?

No. Caesarean section does not protect the baby from coronavirus infection and should only be done when there is a medical reason.

Can women have a companion with them when they give birth?

Yes and no. This depends on the policies of individual hospitals, although the World Health Organization says that all women who want to have a birth companion should be able to have one.

Can a foetus or baby get coronavirus from its mother?

No. Studies have shown us that mothers do not give their babies coronavirus during pregnancy, childbirth or through breastmilk.

Can a mother hold her baby skin to skin immediately after giving birth?

Yes. Every mother and baby have the right to skin to skin contact, even if the mother has coronavirus.

Care during childbirth should be adapted to the needs of every woman, and take into account her wishes and health status.

The information in this infographic reflect professional guidelines valid in October 2020.