

To All Midwifery Group Practice Leads,

As the Relaunch Alberta plan unfolds, Alberta Health is setting out guidelines for those health professionals who are dealing directly with the public and their clients.

Please also refer to the email sent out to you by CMA on May 4/20 around Relaunch. In addition to the wise practices that you have been doing throughout this pandemic, **please address the areas Alberta Health outlines below:**

A. Decide which clients may be seen in person:

You will need to screen clients when a.) booking an appointment and b.) upon arrival at clinic. Each client situation is different, and you will need to maintain your protocols related to calling clients ahead of time, monitor their temperatures, and align care appropriately.

Screening protocol: Use the AHS online self assessment, CMOH 05-2020

- a.) symptomatic clients (cough, fever, runny nose, shortness of breath, sore throat)
- b.) asymptomatic clients who are isolating or required to quarantine
- c.) asymptomatic general population

For **symptomatic clients**:

For those in labor, they will have to go to hospital for birth,

For those in pregnancy, or for postpartum, assess the need for a visit in person or not, and use alternate ways of monitoring, referral to appropriate facilities/resources, conduct telephone consults, or defer the appointment. Symptomatic clients should not enter your clinic space.

For clients who are **isolating or required to quarantine**, again decide the importance of face-to-face appointments and provide care and assessment by alternate means (above for symptomatic clients).

For the **asymptomatic general public**, decide who and how these people will relate to your clinic space. This includes mail and package delivery people, family members, etc. What kind of electronic and physical sign messaging for your location will you implement of change? Institute a handwashing station at the entrance for everyone arriving and leaving.

B. IPC Recommendations:

When providing in-person care to a **symptomatic** client or an asymptomatic client who is isolating or required to quarantine – Please continue to use current AHS interim IPC Recommendations for COVID 19. Symptomatic clients need Contact and Droplet precautions implemented. Donning and doffing procedures will also be required for these clients.

For **asymptomatic clients who are isolating or are required to quarantine**: client wears a **procedure/surgical mask** upon entry to the clinic and wears it throughout the entire time in the clinic. Both of these groups of clients will require assessment and recording of names of

close contacts if birth is going to happen within a few weeks, or you are considering going to the client's home. Please refer to the following guide:

[AHS Interim IPC Recommendations for COVID-19](#)

C. Hand Hygiene:

Please refer to the following resources around IPC:

These resources describe the key moments of hand hygiene that are appropriate to the clinic or home setting(s) where Registered Midwives work. The information above in #6 discusses the protocol for hand washing; the 4 key moments to do hand hygiene, not only for care providers but for clients who enter your clinic space.

NOTE: It is also necessary to use alcohol based hand sanitizer (minimum 60%), soap and water when hands visibly soiled.

D. Staff Management:

Like every business relaunching currently, there are requirements to implement active daily screening of staff for symptoms, and/or international travel and/or close contact with persons having COVID-19. You see this example every time you enter an AHS facility. Please implement these same measures for your own clinic.

- a.) All staff needs to be made aware of current COVID-19 guidelines and policies. This is a good time to review your sick leave policy, to make sure that it aligns with public health guidance.
- b.) There is also a requirement for continuous masking for all staff providing direct client care or working in client care areas where physical distancing or barriers are not possible.
- c.) Your clinics and space have already been modified environmentally to meet the requirements for physical distancing. (i.e. Physical barriers, increased separation, spreading out appointments, limiting access to waiting rooms, removing of communal items that cannot be easily cleaned). This is also a good time to review your plan ad make any needed changes.
- d.) Over the past 10 weeks you have implemented enhanced environmental cleaning (increased frequency with blood pressure machines, thermometers, stethoscopes, baby scales, urine testing supplies; REMINDER to use disinfectants that have a DIN issued by Health Canada. This also includes: cleaning of high-touch surfaces, shared electronic devices used within the client environment. These processes need to remain consistent into the future.

E. Resources:

The current AHS Interim recommendations for COVID-19 is one you are already very familiar with. Additional resources are listed below:

1. [Health Canada Infection Prevention and Control for COVID-19: Second Interim Guidance for Acute Healthcare Settings](#)
2. [Health Canada Risk-informed decision-making guidelines for workplaces and businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
3. [Health Canada Hard surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers \(COVID-19\)](#)
4. [Alberta Health Services Interim IPC Recommendations COVID-19](#)
5. [Alberta Health Services Point of Care Risk Assessment \(PCRA\)](#)
6. [Alberta Health Services 4 Moments of Hand Hygiene \(poster\)](#)
7. [Alberta Health Services Cover Your Cough \(poster\)](#)
8. [Alberta Health Services Aerosol-Generating Medical Procedure Guidance Tool novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
9. [Alberta Health Services Guidelines for Continuous Masking in Healthcare settings](#)

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As always, please reach out to CMA, should you have any questions or concerns.

On behalf of CMA Council and Staff,
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References:

Out of Hospital Birth, Draft Statement: (September, 2019) College of Midwives of Alberta
Flexible Frameworks for Safe and Quality Midwifery Care during COVID-19: (April 3/20), CAM
Midwives as Essential Primary Care Providers in the Context of COVID-19: (April 16/20), CAM
Rocca-Ihenacho, L and Alonso, C (June 2020) Where Do Women Birth During a Pandemic?
Changing Perspectives on Safe Motherhood During the COVID-19 Pandemic. Journal of Global
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