

## The impact of COVID-19 on maternal and newborn health services

- Maternal and newborn health services, including small and sick newborn care, remain core essential services during the pandemic
- The COVID-19 response is already impacting availability, accessibility and quality of health services for pregnant women and newborns
  - The full impact of COVID-19 on maternal and newborn health is uncertain
  - Even a modest decline of 10% in coverage of pregnancy related and newborn health care would result in an additional 28,000 maternal deaths and 168,000 newborn deaths

[Source: www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/article\\_files/4607320.pdf](http://www.guttmacher.org/sites/default/files/article_files/4607320.pdf)

Before, during and after childbirth, all women have the right to high quality care. This includes:



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## Covid-19 and newborn health if mother has suspected, probable or confirmed Covid19 infection

- There is no definitive evidence of vertical transmission of Covid-19 and the few newborns with Covid-19 experience mild illness
  - Mothers and infants should be enabled to remain together, practice skin-to-skin contact, kangaroo mother care and rooming-in day and night especially during establishment of breastfeeding
  - If the newborn is admitted in the neonatal unit, mothers should be supported to express breastmilk, arrangements should be made for them to have free access to the unit
- **Appropriate IPC measures should be applied: wearing a mask and practice respiratory and hand hygiene**

All women have the right to a safe and positive childbirth experience, whether or not they have a confirmed COVID-19 infection.



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Close contact and early, exclusive breastfeeding helps a baby to thrive.

A woman with COVID-19 should be supported to breastfeed safely, hold her newborn skin-to-skin, and share a room with her baby.

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[https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-\(ncov\)-infection-is-suspected](https://www.who.int/publications-detail/clinical-management-of-severe-acute-respiratory-infection-when-novel-coronavirus-(ncov)-infection-is-suspected)