

10. WHAT WILL HAPPEN DURING LABOUR AND DELIVERY IF A PREGNANT WOMAN HAS COVID-19?

The woman and the health care team will wear masks or protective clothing to reduce the risk of spreading the virus during delivery and hospital care. The newborn may stay in a separate room.

11. CAN A WOMAN WITH COVID-19 BREASTFEED?

YES. Women with COVID-19 can breastfeed if they wish to do so. They should:

- Practice respiratory hygiene during feeding by wearing a mask or covering their nose and mouth with a cloth.
- Wash hands before and after feeding.
- Routinely clean and disinfect surfaces they have touched.



Republic of Botswana

For more information visit the;
Ministry of Health & Wellness


 Covid-19_Mohw

 16649

Vision: A Healthy Nation by 2023.

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QUESTIONS
& ANSWERS
ON COVID-19,
PREGNANCY
& CHILD
BIRTH

1. ARE PREGNANT WOMEN AT A HIGHER RISK OF CONTRACTING COVID-19?

At present there is no evidence that they are at higher risk of severe illness than the general population. However, due to changes in their bodies and immune systems, it is important that they take precautions to protect themselves against COVID-19.

2. HOW CAN PREGNANT WOMEN PROTECT THEMSELVES AGAINST COVID-19?

Pregnant women should take the same precautions to avoid COVID-19 infection as other people. Use of masks when in public spaces, frequent hand washing with clean water and soap, social distancing and disinfecting surfaces remain key measures.

3. IS IT SAFE FOR PREGNANT WOMEN TO GO FOR THEIR ANTE NATAL CARE CHECKUPS?

YES, pregnant women should continue to attend their routine pre-natal checkups to prevent pregnancy complications. However, it is important that they take precautions.

4. ARE PREGNANT WOMEN ALLOWED TO COME FOR HEALTH SERVICES WITH THEIR PARTNERS?

YES, they are free to bring along their partner to access services as well as to offer them the necessary support.

5. WHAT SHOULD PREGNANT WOMAN DO IF THEY DEVELOP FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS?

- Call the doctor, health care facility or 16649 for advice.
- For medical emergency warning signs call 997. These may include shortness of breath, chest pains, or pressure in the chest.

6. CAN COVID-19 BE PASSED FROM MOTHER TO FETUS OR NEWBORN BABY?

Currently there is no evidence that suggest pregnant woman with COVID-19 can pass the virus to the baby during pregnancy or delivery.

7. IS THERE AN INCREASED RISK OF MISCARRIAGE WITH COVID-19?

There is no evidence at present of an increased risk of miscarriage, teratogenicity (abnormalities of physiological development) or in-utero.

8. CAN COVID-19 CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR A PREGNANCY?

The available evidence at this time does not suggest that COVID-19 would cause any additional problems during pregnancy or affect the health of the baby after birth.

9. DO PREGNANT WOMEN WITH SUSPECTED OR CONFIRMED COVID-19 NEED TO GIVE BIRTH BY CAESAREAN SECTION?

NO, WHO advise is that caesarean sections should only be performed when medically indicated. Having COVID 19 does not make any difference to the mode of delivery.

