



Ontario Network
of Experts in Fertility
life through knowledge



Department
of Obstetrics
and Gynecology

3210 Harvester Road,
Burlington, Ontario, L7N 3T1
P 1.877.663.0223 F 905.639.3810
www.onefertility.com

ONE Fertility COVID-19 Treatment Waiver

ONE Fertility is actively monitoring the novel coronavirus ("COVID-19") outbreak and continues to prioritize the safety and well-being of our patients. This document serves to inform you of what your physicians currently understand about this new form of coronavirus so that you can make an informed decision about current or future treatment cycles. Please note that information and recommendations regarding COVID-19 are constantly evolving and there may be risks that are currently unknown.

Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses common in humans and several animal species. It is currently understood that COVID-19 (also called SARS-CoV-2) is spread from an infected person to others through a variety of means, including airborne droplets from coughing and sneezing, close personal contact (e.g. touching and shaking hands), and touching one's nose, mouth or eyes before washing one's hands. It is currently unknown if COVID-19 can be spread through semen, vaginal secretions, or sexual intercourse. Many healthy individuals will experience the most common symptoms of COVID-19, which include, but are not limited to, fever, sore throat, cough, shortness of breath, loss of sense of taste and/or smell, gastrointestinal symptoms, and other variants. In addition, many of the people who contract the virus will have no symptoms or symptoms similar to the flu, will not require hospitalization, and will recover with routine supportive medical care. Some people may be at higher risk for serious illness from COVID-19 because they have chronic or other serious long-term health problems (e.g., heart disease, diabetes, lung disease or clotting disorders). These individuals may experience more severe complications, including pneumonia in both lungs, multi-organ failure, life-threatening blood clots and in some cases death. However, serious illness can still occur in individuals who do not have high risk factors.

There have been no recommendations or studies to indicate that women should prevent pregnancies, but the science is still evolving and our current understanding of COVID-19 on pregnancies is limited. Delaying pregnancy until the risk of COVID-19 infection is low should be considered for women living in those areas where there is a high risk of infection. There is limited information from published scientific reports about the susceptibility of pregnant women to COVID-19 and the severity of infection. In general, pregnant women experience immunologic and physiologic changes that make them more susceptible to viral respiratory infections, as is observed with other coronavirus infections and viral respiratory infections, such as influenza, during pregnancy. However, there is currently no evidence that pregnant women who contract COVID-19 may be at greater risk for severe illness, or even death, compared with the general population. Pregnant women who have serious chronic medical conditions may be at higher risk of preterm delivery and other pregnancy complications, which requires closer fetal monitoring (per the recommendations of the Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine). Therefore, certain patients with some underlying medical conditions may not be able to initiate fertility treatments at this time. This will be determined in consultation with your doctor, based on your specific circumstances.

Data from the 2003 SARS epidemic suggest there is no increased risk of fetal loss or congenital anomalies associated with infection early in pregnancy, but the data are not conclusive and similar outcomes may not be the same for COVID-19 infections. Currently, there is inconclusive data on the risk of miscarriage or congenital anomalies (birth defects) following COVID-19 infection given the limited number of cases reported and the quality of the published data available. There are also conflicting data regarding the risks of birth defects in the setting of maternal fever. Miscarriage and stillbirth are more common with influenza infections in pregnancy, and therefore could be a risk of COVID-19, but there is no evidence to suggest this. Preliminary data show that there is an increased risk of caesarean section in women who have COVID-19. Additional increased risks for the fetus could include, but are not limited to: intrauterine growth restriction, premature delivery, perinatal death, and stillbirth. There are reports of women who have tested positive for COVID-19 and have delivered babies without the virus, while there are reports of women whose babies have tested

positive for the virus. It is unknown if a pregnant woman can transmit COVID-19 to her fetus or newborn by other routes of direct transmission occurring before, during, or after delivery. Available reports are reassuring but are limited to small case series. New data continue to accumulate and will be monitored.

We recommend that individuals with a confirmed or presumed COVID-19 infection, or potential exposure to any individual with COVID-19, avoid pregnancy until the symptoms resolve for at least 3 weeks and a minimum of 4 weeks from the onset of symptoms or a positive COVID-19 test or a minimum of 2 weeks following potential exposure, in the absence of symptoms or positive test result. To reduce the risk of infection, we advise that all patients who are attempting pregnancy engage in routine preventive actions such as frequent handwashing, avoiding close contact with people who have respiratory symptoms (e.g., cough and fever), and avoiding travel to high risk areas as defined by the Centre for Disease Control (CDC). Physical/social distancing requirements should be adhered to along with any other relevant guidance issued by national, provincial, or local public health guidelines.

Attestation of patient and partner (if applicable):

I understand that I might have been or may become exposed to COVID-19 prior to or while receiving services from ONE Fertility despite their best screening efforts and enhanced practices of minimizing potential exposures to their patient population. I understand that, at the present moment, the availability of testing is limited and ONE Fertility has limited ability to refer patients without symptoms for COVID-19 testing. I understand that I may have the option to be tested for COVID-19 before starting treatment and at some future date I may be required to be tested for COVID-19 prior to treatment. If testing is performed, I understand and agree that I must discuss these results with ONE Fertility prior to any treatment. I understand that COVID-19 tests are not 100% accurate. I understand that diagnostic tests may sometimes give false negative results and positive antibody tests do not guarantee immunity from COVID-19. If I demonstrate symptoms, ONE Fertility may cancel my treatment, even if I have been tested and had a negative result.

I further understand that should I be directly exposed to COVID-19, be diagnosed with COVID-19, or become symptomatic with any illness which could possibly be COVID-19 (even in the absence of a positive COVID-19 test), ONE Fertility may decide to postpone, reschedule, terminate or modify the manner in which they render services, depending on the clinical circumstances. I understand that it is my obligation to inform the clinic if I am not feeling well, have a fever or any other symptoms that could potentially be associated with COVID-19, or if I have reason to believe that I have been exposed to COVID-19. I understand that should any of the forgoing apply to me, the clinic may decide to reschedule my appointment, visit, or any services to a later date. I agree that I will contact ONE Fertility to reschedule my appointment, if I experience any of the following symptoms: fever, chills, repeated shaking, cough (new or worsening of chronic cough), difficulty breathing or shortness of breath, runny nose/congestion (new or worsening of chronic congestion), muscle pain, new loss of sense of taste/smell, or sore throat. I also agree that I will inform ONE Fertility immediately if I have been in close contact with an individual known to have COVID-19, or if I have had exposure to an individual with any of the previously listed symptoms. I further understand that there may come a point when ONE Fertility may not be able to support continued services (e.g. illness of doctors or laboratory staff which would prevent them from rendering services or cause the clinic to be required to pause operations) and if this occurs the services may be postponed or cancelled.

I understand that prior to, and during, my treatment I should continue to practice preventive measures, i.e. physical distancing, handwashing, use of personal protective equipment (PPE i.e. masks and hand sanitizer) and all current Public Health recommendations, to reduce the risks of infection. I understand that either the health-care provider or I may at some point be under a 'Stay at Home' or 'Shelter in Place' ordinance that may restrict my ability to travel in my local community or the health-providers ability to travel to the clinic. I agree that I will familiarize myself with all such orders that apply to me. I acknowledge that I am leaving my home for medical treatment and that I should and will take precautions to remain isolated during my travel in order to minimize the risk of infection to myself or others.

I understand that ONE Fertility is taking extra precautions to limit the risk of spreading COVID-19, including prescreening and physical distancing practices during my treatment.

I understand that:

- I must be wearing a mask (preferably medical) at all times in the clinic.

- No partner/support person or other family member will be allowed in the clinic, except to provide sperm (if applicable). A support person may be necessary to provide transportation but will not enter the clinic unless directed to do so by clinic personnel.
- All visits are appointment based. No walk-ins.
- I am expected to arrive on time and will not be allowed to come into the clinic early.
- I am subject to mandatory COVID-19 screening and handwashing/sanitizing prior to proceeding to services.

I agree to comply with these efforts, and I understand that my failure to do so may result in the cancellation of my appointment. I understand that if during my prescreening at the clinic I am found to screen or test positive for COVID-19, I will be asked to reschedule my appointment at such a time when ONE Fertility believes it is appropriate. I acknowledge that despite these efforts it is still possible that I could become infected with COVID-19 during my travel to and from the clinic or while at the clinic. I agree to hold the clinic, physicians, and staff harmless in the event that I am infected.

By initiating treatment, I understand and acknowledge that my treatment cycle will be canceled if I, or any of my close contacts has been exposed to or diagnosed with COVID19, is suspected of having COVID-19, or exhibits symptoms consistent with COVID-19. I/we also understand that it may be necessary to cancel my treatment cycle based on ONE Fertility interpretation of and need to comply with certain orders, mandates, travel restrictions or other guidance issued by federal, provincial, or local authorities and professional medical organizations. I understand that ONE Fertility may require COVID-19 screening and/or testing before initiation of or during any portion of my treatment cycle, which I understand cannot be waived. I understand and acknowledge that if my cycle is cancelled for any of the above reasons, all cycle and medication fees for therapy completed, up to the point of cancellation, will not be waived or refunded by ONE Fertility.

I understand that cycle initiation can only occur with the prior approval of ONE Fertility. I understand this is a voluntary process and that there are other options available, including, but not limited to, delaying my treatment until more is known about COVID-19 and the potential long term effects.

I understand that any treatment cycle started could be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances, such as new government regulations, staff shortages, PPE shortages, personal infection with COVID-19 or a COVID-19 outbreak within the clinic.

I have been given the opportunity to discuss this with my physician and/or another representative of ONE Fertility, and all of my questions have been answered to my satisfaction. I also understand that I have the option to review this with my legal representative before signing.

Based on this information and any other information we may have requested, by signing below, I (and my partner if applicable) wish to proceed with fertility treatment.

Print Name of Patient Date

Print Name of Partner (if partnered) Date

Signature of Patient (Mandatory)

Signature of Partner (if partnered) (Requested)

Patient Health Card Number

Partner Health Card Number

References:

CDC: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/pregnancy-faq.html>

Society for Maternal Fetal Medicine- <https://www.smfm.org/covid19>

ASRM: <https://www.asrm.org/globalassets/asrm/asrm-content/news-and-publications/covid-19/covidtaskforceupdate3.pdf>

Canadian Fertility and Andrology Society: https://cfas.ca/CFAS_Communication_on_COVID-19.html