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COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS AND WAIVER

****The latest version of this document can always be found on the NCFMC website, ncfmc.com ****

At NCFMC, we understand that no one chooses to have infertility and that fertility treatment can be time-sensitive, due to factors such as maternal age, ovarian reserve, insurance coverage, mental health, or social circumstances. Our knowledge about the impacts of COVID-19 on pregnancy is evolving as time passes and more cases are studied. [The Centers for Disease Control \(CDC\) reports that studies indicate that pregnant women who contract COVID-19 are at increased risk of severe illness, including death.](#) This risk is highest in women over 35 years old, and in women of color.

[The CDC also reports that pregnant women who contract COVID-19 are at increased risk for preterm delivery: a preterm delivery rate of 13% instead of the expected 10% rate.](#) Some studies have also demonstrated the presence of the coronavirus that causes COVID in the placental tissues of babies born to infected women, and at least one baby was found to have the type of short-term antibodies that can indicate acute infection, although none of the babies in the study became ill. In addition, some studies suggest that having a fever at various points in pregnancy may increase the risk for autism, or for birth defects such as cleft lip/palate, heart defects, and neural tube defects. Infections, in general, may increase the risk for miscarriage or even increase the risk for late pregnancy loss.

The coronavirus is primarily passed through respiratory droplets formed by coughing or sneezing. Transmission is generally through close contact (within 6 feet) with an infected person, but transmission by touching contaminated surfaces may be possible. Some people who carry the virus and can pass it to others may not show many or any symptoms. Coronavirus infection can cause severe illness and death. Persons with underlying medical conditions like hypertension or diabetes or who are immunocompromised are at higher risk for complications from COVID-19.

We are following all current CDC and WHO guidelines for risk reduction strategies and ask for your cooperation as well.

You have the option to delay fertility treatment, and consideration should be given for such a delay whenever waiting to start treatment would not decrease the chance for successful conception. Women who are age 35 years or older, or who have diminished ovarian reserve, may be at higher risk of a poor outcome with fertility treatment in the event of delay.

Patients who wish to move forward with treatment at this time should be aware that:

1. It is unclear how long the coronavirus will be a concern. It may continue to be a concern until a reliable vaccine is available, which could take a year or more.

2. We cannot provide complete information about the effect of COVID-19 on pregnancy, or the effects of pregnancy on COVID-19.
3. Testing for current COVID-19 infection or immunity to COVID-19 may not be readily available in a treatment cycle, and results may not be 100% accurate.
4. Social distancing, limiting companions at appointments, and complying with the CDC and NCFMC's sanitization and risk mitigation practices is necessary for the health of everyone. Even with these practices, however, there is a risk of contracting COVID-19 from exposure within our clinic, during travel to our clinic, or from the process of picking up or receiving medications or supplies required for treatment.
5. Treatment may need to be canceled in the event that the patient develops symptoms of COVID-19, tests positive for COVID-19, or comes into close contact with someone who tests positive for COVID-19.
6. NCFMC staff may be unable to complete the treatment cycle, due to illness or governmental order, or if medical equipment such as medical gases or PPE (masks/gloves) becomes unavailable.
7. Unforeseen circumstances could arise that could cause treatment cancellation.
8. While NCFMC will make every effort to help patients with cycle costs incurred from a cancelled cycle, we have no control over medication costs or insurance requirements; cycle cancellations would result, at a minimum, in the need to re-purchase medications for a future cycle.
9. You have the option to delay fertility treatment, which may allow more time for a better understanding of the coronavirus and on the risk of infection in pregnancy; may decrease the risk of cycle cancellation due to illness or COVID-19 contact as case numbers fall; and may allow for a vaccine to be used that can prevent COVID-19 infection.
10. The coronavirus pandemic may increase the stress of going through fertility treatment. NCFMC can provide a list of local counselors who can help if you are having difficulty managing. [Resolve](#) is a good resource for information and support, both online and in-person. The Mental Health Professionals Group of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine has a finder tool to recommend [local mental health professionals](#).

Information about COVID-19 and pregnancy changes rapidly. Please check these sources frequently for the most up-to-date information:

American Society for Reproductive Medicine:

<https://www.reproductivefacts.org/news-and-publications/covid-19-resources-for-patients/>

American College of OB/GYNs: <https://www.acog.org/topics/covid-19/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

My signature below indicates that I have read the above information and have had opportunity to discuss with my physician and/or nurse this information and any questions I have. I wish to proceed with fertility treatment during the coronavirus pandemic. I understand I can postpone treatment at any time after signing this document.

Patient Printed Name and DOB

Partner (if applicable) Printed Name and DOB

Patient Signature and date

Partner (if applicable) Signature and date