



COVID-19 NON-ESSENTIAL SERVICES

March 22, 2020

The College of Midwives of Manitoba received notice from Shared Health on March 22, 2020 to advise that all non-essential and elective health services in Manitoba should be ceased or reduced to minimal levels.

Examples of services that may continue to be provided include: Emergency services, time-sensitive services necessary to avert or avoid negative patient outcomes OR to avert or avoid situations that would have direct impact on patient safety.

Midwives provide both essential and non-essential services. Midwives are in the best position to determine what care is essential for an individual client in a particular moment in time and must continue to use their professional judgment. Midwives are asked to consider their practice to identify areas where they may limit direct contact with clients when care is deemed non-essential.

Examples of reducing non-essential care may include the following:

- Reducing the number of prenatal visits. The World Health Organization and the Association of Ontario midwives recommend 8 visits (first trimester, 16-20 weeks, 28 weeks, 31/32 weeks, 34-36 weeks, 38 weeks, 40 weeks and 41 weeks).
- Plan for shorter in-person visits. Consider limiting the length of in-person visits to include physical assessments only. Telephone or other distance-based methods of communication may be used for informed choice discussions and other general questions.
- Limit the number of in-person postpartum visits to 1-2 visits in the first week, ensuring that appropriate newborn screening and assessments are done. When appropriate these visits may take place over the phone.
- Consider limiting the number of additional people attending in-person visits

Midwives should follow any direction provided by Manitoba Health and their regional health authority regarding the provision essential services and use of personal protective equipment when providing in-person care.

Provincial updates for healthcare providers in Manitoba are available at [Shared Health](#)

Additional information regarding midwifery/obstetrical care is available at [Association of Ontario Midwives](#)
[SOGC](#)