



March 31, 2020

Dear Commonwealth OB Patients,

We would like to inform you of new guidance from Partners Healthcare regarding recommendations for working outside the home while pregnant during COVID-19. Information about the effects of COVID-19 infection during pregnancy is limited. Based on this limited evidence, we remain optimistic and hopeful that pregnant women are not more likely to get infected or more likely to be sicker if infected. However, we remain cautious given experience with other viral respiratory illnesses such as influenza, varicella and the other coronaviruses.

Out of an abundance of caution and given the past experience with other viral respiratory infections, it may be prudent for pregnant workers, including health care workers, to limit exposure to and caring for individuals and patients known or suspected to have COVID-19 when doing so is feasible. Redirecting work responsibilities within the workplace should be considered when possible.

Pregnant workers, including pregnant healthcare workers, should stop in person work at **37 weeks** to optimize social distancing and reduce the chance of symptoms or infection around the time of delivery, each of which would lead to separation from their newborn.

Our guidance may change in the days and weeks ahead. As more evidence becomes available, we will continue to re-evaluate these recommendations.

Sincerely,

Commonwealth OB/Gyn