

OMC Email Update

April 9, 2020

Dear Midwives and Student Midwives,

Thank you for the love and care you are giving to pregnant and birthing families during this stressful time. I'm writing to share some updates and new resources from the past week that may be useful to you.

Statewide OMC zoom meeting for COVID-19 information and support tomorrow, 4/10 from 12 to 1 PM

The next statewide OMC COVID-19 meeting is tomorrow and we hope to see you to hear how you are coping and changing your practices and to offer information and support. Link to join:

Join URL: <https://zoom.us/j/928230611>

Oregon COVID-19 Projections

The current projection for Oregon is that our COVID-19 cases will peak on April 22. The projections for Oregon anticipate no hospital bed or ICU bed shortages but a possible ventilator shortage of 40. For comparison, New York's projected peak is today and they have a 9,000 bed shortage and a 5,008 ventilator shortage.

<https://covid19.healthdata.org/united-states-of-america/oregon>

Masks Update

Medical/surgical masks are preferred over cloth masks when available for 2nd stage of labor. Some community midwives have had success ordering masks by calling the supplier first thing in the morning to place an order. OMC is looking into getting medical/surgical masks for midwives through the Oregon Health Authority. The current PPE recommendation for maternity providers working with well patients is to wear mask and face shield or goggles during second stage and practices/providers are deciding individually whether to wear masks with well patients during prenatal, labor, and postpartum care. Guidance about this in the US is not great because it is largely based on scarcity of PPE in hospitals. The CDC is currently recommending cloth masks for any contact outside your household.

NACPM Webinar: COVID-19: Community Midwives, Public Health, and Emergency Preparedness

NACPM presented another super useful webinar this week with useful information on how midwives in different parts of the country are shifting their practices and preparing for possible need to increase community midwife capacity to serve low-risk people if hospitals are overwhelmed. Find this and other recent NACPM COVID-19 related webinars here:

<https://nacpm.org/cpm-practice-and-association-news-webinar-series/>

Media/Press Requests

A number of midwives have been contacted by television, radio, or newspaper reporters for stories about the surge in interest in community birth. OMC is trying to coordinate media response so that any coverage of midwives and community birth is accurate and reflects well on our care. If you are contacted by the media please let me know (silke@oregonmidwiferycouncil.org 503-705-5060) so that we can talk about strategy and I can either support you with talking points and interview practice before the interview or (if it is statewide or national media) be part of the interview directly.

PPE face shields available to midwives (info from Angela Truby)

"Hello midwives, I wanted to share a great tip from an OB friend of mine who ordered from a local Portland company making face shields for health care workers. The company is called Infinity Images and you can

order online at infinityimages.com. Each reusable face shield costs \$7.50, and I was able to order this morning and pick up my 3 face shields for my birth team the same day at their warehouse! I plan to wear this to births along with my mask and gloves at all times. I think midwives deserve to be as protected as possible and I love that this product is not wasteful. Also, by purchasing these face shields we are supporting a local business trying to help solve the shortage of PPE, which is awesome! Wishing you strong health and much courage~
Angela"

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