

OMC Email: COVID-19 update for Oregon Midwives

From: OMC Secretary (Kelsey Fisher)

Date: June 8, 2020

Dear Midwives and Student Midwives,

I am thinking of you all as you work to support your clients in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing protests against racism and police brutality. Here are the COVID-19 updates that I think will be most useful to you. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Hospital Transfers. Legacy, Providence, and OHSU have been working on a plan for community midwives to resume accompanying clients on transfers and they recognize that this improves outcomes and experience of care. They hope to release the plan this week or next week and I will send info about it as soon as it happens. Once this plan is released it could be useful to share it with other hospitals and hospital systems to help them reintegrate community midwives.

COVID-19 cases in Oregon. Confirmed cases of COVID-19 continue to rise in Oregon (the single largest one-day increase since the pandemic began was yesterday with 146 new cases) but the evidence points to this being due to increased testing, contact tracing, and workplace monitoring not an increase in the actual curve of new cases. Deaths from COVID-19 in Oregon have decreased. The majority of new COVID-19 cases in Oregon at this point are from workplace outbreaks where workers are in close proximity to each other, often with inadequate protections. It is important for us to know where our clients and their family members and close social contacts work so that we can understand their level of risk. You can find more information about cases in Oregon and workplace outbreaks on the OHA COVID-19 website:

<https://govstatus.egov.com/OR-OHA-COVID-19>

Indoor vs outdoor transmission of COVID-19. There is fairly good evidence that outdoor transmission of COVID-19 is rare. I have **attached** a cluster study of 1245 confirmed cases done within a pool of 7324 confirmed COVID-19 cases in China that shows that only one of the cases can be traced to outdoor exposure and ALL identified outbreaks of 3 or more cases were related to indoor exposure. It is useful information for midwives and clients to know that socially distanced outdoor activities, including social contact, are low risk. Here is the citation: Qian, H., Miao, T., Li, L. I. U., Zheng, X., Luo, D., & Li, Y. (2020). Indoor transmission of SARS-CoV-2. *medRxiv*.

Executive order 20-22. Just a reminder that executive order 20-22 on guidelines for medical office and other healthcare settings during the COVID-19 applies to us! We are responsible (and liable) for following the guidelines on PPE and social distancing. I've attached the guidance below and you can also find it at the following link under "elective and non-urgent procedures."

<https://www.oregon.gov/oha/PH/DISEASES/CONDITIONS/DISEASESAZ/Pages/COVID-19.aspx>

Our next statewide OMC COVID-19 updates and support meeting will be Friday, June 19th at 12:00 pm. Here is the zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83343536235>

I hope to see you then!

Silke Akerson, CPM, LDM
Oregon Midwifery Council