

Novel coronavirus (COVID - 19) and fertility treatment

female label

male label

What is novel coronavirus (COVID - 19)

As a group, coronaviruses are common across the world. Typical symptoms of coronavirus include fever and a cough that may progress to a severe pneumonia causing shortness of breath and breathing difficulties. Novel coronavirus (SARS-COV 2) is a new strain of coronavirus causing COVID–19, which can manifest as a severe illness, especially but not exclusively, affecting older people or those with other health issues. COVID-19 has put a huge strain on public health services globally. Adults in their fertile years have been affected and for some, the disease has been fatal.

What do we know and understand about COVID-19 and pregnancy?

Generally, it appears that pregnant women are no more likely to be seriously unwell than other healthy adults if they develop COVID -19. The large majority of women who get COVID-19 whilst pregnant will experience only mild or moderate cold/flu like symptoms.

To date, there is no evidence to suggest that the virus causes any serious harm to the developing baby, or an increased risk of miscarriage, although there have been two cases of probable transmission from a mother to her baby during pregnancy or birth (vertical transmission). In all reported cases of newborn babies developing coronavirus very soon after birth, the babies have been well. Some babies have been born prematurely to women who were very unwell with COVID -19. It is unclear whether the virus caused these premature births, or whether it was recommended that the baby was born early for the benefit of the women’s health recovery.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) have put together an excellent information resource for pregnant women and their families. The advice in this document has been drawn from their website www.rcog.org.uk . Given the rapid pace of

increasing knowledge about this condition, we ask that you visit the RCOG website personally for the latest guidance.

How can we protect ourselves from getting COVID -19?

The best way to reduce our risk of developing COVID-19 is to follow government guidance at www.gov.uk/coronavirus, particularly on social distancing and hand-washing. However, fertility treatment must involve visits to the hospital, which means you will inevitably be exposed to people and environments outside your home, and others will be exposed to you. Leeds Fertility is adopting a program of measures to minimize the risk to you and to our staff of coronavirus transmission. To minimize the risk to all, we need all embarking on fertility treatment to complete this form and confirm they will observe the following requirements:

- I/We confirm that we have not been diagnosed with COVID - 19 or display any of the symptoms within the last 7 days and will confirm this at every attendance at the unit via the Leeds Fertility triage process.
- I/We confirm that we understand that the risks of COVID -19 in pregnancy are still relatively unknown and having read the RCOG guidance are happy to proceed with treatment.
- I/We confirm that I/we have signed the Leeds Fertility COVID - 19 code of conduct
- I/We confirm that we understand that if we become symptomatic I / we will inform the clinic and present for testing at a designated testing centre. If I / we develop confirmed COVID -19 during the course of our fertility treatment, the treatment will be stopped to allow us to focus on our full recovery and to reduce the risk of transmission to others.

_____ signed _____ date

_____ signed _____ date

Witness

_____ signed _____ date

_____ Print name Leeds Fertility witness