



BC COLLEGE OF NURSES & MIDWIVES

As of Sept. 1, 2020, the British Columbia College of Nursing Professionals (BCCNP) and the College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC) amalgamated to create a new regulatory body: **British Columbia College of Nurses & Midwives (BCCNM)**.

The document you are about to access reflects our most current information about this topic, but you'll notice the content refers to the previous regulatory college that published this document prior to Sept. 1, 2020.

We appreciate your patience while we work towards updating all of our documents to reflect our new name and brand.

Contact us

GENERAL INQUIRIES

604.742.6200
1.866.880.7101 toll-free within
Canada only
info@bccnm.ca

REGISTRATION

register@bccnm.ca
midwivesregister@bccnm.ca

REGULATORY POLICY & PROGRAMS

practice@bccnm.ca

COMPLAINTS

complaints@bccnm.ca
Fax 604.899.0794





March 16, 2020

CMBC Update on COVID-19

Dear Midwives,

We recognize that COVID-19 has significant impact on you as a regulated health care provider and on your clinical practice. These are unprecedented and challenging circumstances for midwives in BC and you will need to adjust your practice to be able to continue to provide safe and appropriate care to your clients and their newborns in light of COVID-19.

We encourage you to continue to work collaboratively with your peers and other health care providers to implement enhanced infection prevention and control measures to protect yourself and your clients from infection. It is essential that everyone follows the directions provided by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Ministry of Health. If you need to see someone in isolation or in a home where others are self-isolated, you will need appropriate personal protective gear.

CMBC's [Standards of Practice](#) are designed to be flexible and responsive to a changing world. This situation is changing rapidly and how best to provide clinical care during a pandemic will require you to exercise your professional judgment to be able to provide care that is both comprehensive and is in your clients' best interest. What care "looks like" during a pandemic may not resemble a typical midwifery visit schedule or approach. Visits may be reasonably shortened to minimize patient contact. Telephone, Skype and FaceTime and other virtual technologies may be used to effectively replace, delay or augment visits when appropriate (i.e. when physical assessment is not required) during this time.

CMBC has a [Policy on Infection Control](#) (which states that midwives need to adhere to IPAC best practices) which we expect would be escalated during a pandemic. The steps that some health care practitioners have taken in this regard, i.e. minimizing clinic surfaces, cleaning touchpoints regularly, increasing a clinic's regular cleaning schedule, and so on all seem like reasonable and effective measures to take during this pandemic.

Choice of birthplace will need to be discussed based on evolving recommendations and guidelines regarding COVID-19 and the availability of supplies. Note: The Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada (SOGC) has updated their [guidance on COVID-19](#) in pregnancy with recommendations for antenatal, intrapartum, postpartum and newborn care.

You are accountable and responsible for clients in your care and your professional decisions and actions must always be justifiable. As long as these decisions and actions are documented, explained to clients, and are based on your best judgement with the information you have at the time, you would be meeting standards.

As per our previous correspondence, you should be looking to our provincial agencies for directions for health care practitioners during a pandemic such as the [BC Centre for Disease](#)

[Control \(BCCDC\) website](#), which offers guidance to health professionals on COVID-19 that is updated on an ongoing basis and the [Public Health Agency of Canada](#).

We are also aware that there could be reduced access to Emergency Skills, CPR and NRP certifications during the pandemic which may impact on those registrants who require them for renewal of registration as well those returning to Temporary (Emergency) or General registration. We are closely monitoring the situation and working to proactively address any issues as needed.

This is the time to use common sense, clinical judgement, and to plan and prepare as much as possible. Please ensure that you know your Health Authority's plan for expedited testing for Health Professionals and how you can access it if need be. What is your contingency plan if midwives in your team/community get sick? Have you defined what you/your team would consider essential care?

Finally, CMBC is currently operating as a virtual office in an effort to both protect our staff members and reduce possible associated service disruptions. We continue to be available via email and telephone as usual during this time. However, there is a good possibility that mail services may be disrupted if our office building closes. For that reason, we ask that you contact CMBC by phone or email only, and that any outstanding payments for renewal be made by credit card.

We will continue to reach out with updates and guidance as indicated, while recognizing that impacts of recommendations made by the BC Centre for Disease Control and the Public Health Agency of Canada may change hourly. If you have any questions about meeting the *Standards of Practice* or other CMBC requirements, please contact CMBC at information@cmbc.bc.ca and your question will be quickly assigned to the appropriate staff member for response.

With much respect and gratitude for your work on the frontlines,

Louise Aerts
Registrar & Executive Director