



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

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REGISTRATION

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REGULATORY POLICY & PROGRAMS

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COMPLAINTS

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April 23, 2020

Stay the Course: Update from CMBC

Dear Midwives,

I'm writing today to provide some reassurance about the changes you've made to your practice, what we can anticipate in the weeks to come, and to provide a bit more guidance on clinical issues. Thank you for your continued hard work and service. I hope that a sense of stability has started to emerge in your new work routines.

On March 23, 2020, Dr. Bonnie Henry, the Provincial Health Officer [directed all regulated health professionals](#) to limit delivery of in-person services in community settings. This message remains current, despite recent discussions of lifting some of these measures at a future date. To be clear, the message from the Provincial Health Office continues to be that "all non-essential and elective services involving direct physical contact with patients and clients should be reduced to minimal levels, subject to allowable exceptions, until further notice." Regulated health professionals are encouraged to provide services via telehealth where possible.

Timelines of when non-urgent in-person care can resume remain unknown. This direction will be provided by the Provincial Health Officer at the appropriate time. In the meantime, stay the course, limit in-person services to patients/clients who require urgent services that cannot be delivered via telehealth, and continue to consult the CMBC website for up to date information.

On another note, I want to recognize the difficulties you may be faced with as you reconcile some of the basic tenets of midwifery care with the orders made by public health. As a regulator, CMBC requires midwives to follow public health orders and standards of practice relevant to perinatal care during COVID-19. In weighing these with the practice of informed choice and advocacy, the scale of risk/benefits associated with the decision at hand to both the client and the provider must be considered. It is unusual for a client to have to consider the effect of their informed choice decisions on others' health, but it would be an understatement to say that COVID-19 has created many new unusual circumstances.

In a case where a client has made a decision in contravention of the orders made by public health, a protocol set by your health authority, or a pandemic-specific standard (such as having five support people present at a home birth in a small apartment where physical distancing is impossible), please call CMBC for further guidance.

On another note, we have had numerous inquiries about the possibility of expanding midwifery scope during the pandemic, so that midwives can perform restricted activities such as frenectomies and IUD insertion for non-postpartum individuals. CMBC has had initial discussions with the Ministry of Health with respect to areas for rapid regulation change during the pandemic. They are aware of our capacity to assist the work force and have indicated that any changes to scope through regulation will be made by the Public Health Officer and in response to a significant need.

I hope you and your loved ones are well. Thank you for continuing to stay the course in all that you are doing to keep your clients, yourselves and your families healthy, strong and calm.

Sincerely,

Louise Aerts
Registrar & Executive Director