



March 11, 2020

Dear Primary Care/Pediatrician/OB-GYN Partners,

With Ohio reporting its first positive cases of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19), it is important that we take steps to prevent its spread, and you can help support these efforts. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) notes that for most people, the immediate risk of being exposed to the virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to be low, and the virus is not currently widespread in the United States.

According to CDC, there is no current information from published scientific reports about susceptibility of pregnant women to COVID-19. Pregnant women experience immunologic and physiologic changes which might make them more susceptible to viral respiratory infections, including COVID-19.

CDC says that there is no evidence that children are more susceptible to COVID-19. In fact, most confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported from China have occurred in adults. Infections in children have been reported, including in very young children.

In case you haven't already seen it, CDC has developed information regarding:

- “Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) and Pregnancy” which is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/pregnancy-faq.html>.
- “Frequently Asked Questions and Answers: Coronavirus Disease-2019 (COVID-19) and Children” which is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/children-faq.html>.
- “Interim Guidance on Breastfeeding for a Mother Confirmed or Under Investigation For COVID-19” which is available at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/pregnancy-guidance-breastfeeding.html>.

Attached are flyers that you can post in your exam rooms for patients and staff consisting of a COVID-19 key FAQ and tips for preventing the spread of germs that can cause infectious diseases. For up to date COVID-19 information and other resources, go to [www.coronavirus.ohio.gov](http://www.coronavirus.ohio.gov), which is maintained by the Ohio Department of Health.

If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please contact me or your local health department.

Sincerely,

Russ Kennedy  
Deputy Director/Director of External Affairs  
Ohio Department of Health  
Email: [Russ.Kennedy@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Russ.Kennedy@odh.ohio.gov)  
Office: (614) 995-7973