The American Society of Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) knows how important timeliness and access are when it comes to fertility treatment. This is true even though the risks posed by COVID-19 infection on the fetus and the pregnant woman are unclear. Current ASRM guidance allows for starting fertility treatment as long as patients understand the potential risks.

Consistent with this ASRM guidance, Generations Fertility Care will start fertility treatment. Starting treatment depends on many factors including, but not limited to, the ability to maintain:

- adequate staffing,
- adequate supplies to provide treatment safely and
- patient health and safety

The “Common Questions and Answers” below are meant to ensure that patients who start treatments do so with a full understanding of the risks.

Your doctor will discuss these issues with you. You will have the chance to ask questions and get answers before starting treatments. We want to ensure that if you choose to proceed with fertility treatment that you do so with full awareness of the risks.

Common Questions and Answers
(Adapted from ASRM FAQs)

I want to pursue IVF or other fertility treatment(s). Should I delay care during the COVID-19 pandemic? When can I resume fertility and medical treatment?

It is very hard to deal with uncertainty. This is especially true when you are pursuing the dream of family and unexpected challenges are in the way. While ASRM strongly advocates for fertility care and reproduction as an essential right, there are considerable risks should you become exposed to COVID-19. Fertility care requires interaction with many people. This increases the chance that you may become infected.

ASRM recommendations:

- Postpone infertility care until after the crisis passes to reduce your risk of getting COVID-19. This is because the virus can cause you to become very sick, requiring long hospital stays, or even death.
- ASRM recognizes the need for timely treatment. ASRM guidelines do support starting fertility treatment as long as patients understand the potential risks.

Consistent with the ASRM guidance, Generations Fertility Care will resume fertility treatments for patients on a case by case basis as clinically appropriate.

Will postponing my care affect my ability to have a child?

It is very difficult to consider postponing your treatment. There is no evidence that delaying treatment for a month or two will ultimately affect your ability to have a child. This is true even if you have concerns about advanced age and/or diminished ovarian reserve (low egg supply).

Is there a risk that my cycle could be cancelled if I proceed with treatment now?

A treatment cycle could be cancelled. Reasons could include:

- changes in federal, state, or local laws, regulations or orders.
- Lack of staff. (Healthcare workers who are exposed COVID-19 may not be able to come to work.)
- Lack of supplies.
- If you or your partner are directly exposed, infected or diagnosed with COVID-19.
- If you or your partner have symptoms with a fever or have flu-like symptoms which could possibly be COVID-19 (even in the absence of a positive COVID-19 test). You are required to contact Generations Fertility Care if symptoms occur.
- If canceling treatment would improve the health and safety for you, your potential pregnancy, or staff.
Can my clinic prevent me from getting infected by screening patients and staff?

No. Preparing for and going through fertility treatment requires multiple clinic visits and procedures. Our clinic tries to screen patients and staff to lower the risk of COVID-19 exposure in the clinic, but there is no way to guarantee that you won’t be exposed.

People who have COVID-19 are contagious days before they develop any symptoms. The virus can be in the air that they breathe out and the air you breathe in. This risk is reduced by wearing masks and by increasing physical distance between people. Even these precautions do not guarantee your safety. Also, some aspects of fertility treatment require staff to be close to you; maintaining physical distance may not be possible. We wish we could eliminate risk, but we cannot.

Are my frozen embryos, eggs, or sperm safe?

Yes. There is no threat to the safety of cryopreserved eggs, sperm or embryos caused by COVID-19. Clinics have policies and procedures to maintain the liquid nitrogen tanks containing frozen embryos, eggs, and sperm.

Should I take steps to avoid pregnancy during the COVID-19 pandemic?

We are NOT saying that women should not get pregnant during this pandemic. We are also not saying that there is no risk. The risks of getting COVID-19 in the first trimester or at any stage of pregnancy are not known. We do know that severe illness of any kind can lead to pregnancy complications. If you are already pregnant, it is important to take all precautions possible to reduce your risk of exposure.

What can I do now?

Consider scheduling a consultation and begin to prepare for your treatment cycle. (Generations Fertility Care offers Telehealth Video and Telephone visits.)

Some people may want to use this time to focus on improving their general health through efforts such as smoking cessation or weight loss. These efforts may improve fertility treatment success. It’s a good chance to focus on nutrition and reduce or eliminate habits that are harmful to your overall health. Please contact our clinic directly for the most up-to-date guidance.

I think I am pregnant; should I get the ultrasound and lab testing to confirm the pregnancy?

Yes! The ultrasound and lab testing are recommended at this time.

I have been diagnosed with cancer and chemotherapy is recommended. Can I still attempt to freeze my eggs (or sperm if male)?

Yes. People facing an urgent need for fertility preservation can proceed during the pandemic if this is deemed to be reasonable after talking with their doctor, and if necessary staff and supplies are available.

If I get sick or test positive for COVID-19, when is it safe to become pregnant?

COVID-19 infection can last for weeks. Pregnant women are known to be at increased risk of severe complications from other respiratory infections such as influenza. Given this, we will not start fertility treatment until two weeks after you last showed any symptoms of COVID-19.

I’m pregnant. Is there a risk that a COVID-19 infection during the pregnancy could result in complications affecting my health?

COVID-19 infections can lead to many complications. This could include difficulty breathing requiring a breathing tube, blood clots, injury to other organs including the liver, kidney, or heart and even death.

Pregnant women are known to be at greater risk of severe complications from other respiratory viral infections such as influenza and SARS. Based on the limited information currently available, it does not appear that pregnant women who become infected with COVID-19 are at increased risk for COVID-19-related complications. However, there are case reports of pregnant women infected with COVID-19 having more difficulty breathing after delivery, which could be severe enough to require a breathing tube.

The data about COVID-19 in pregnancy is very limited, but pregnant women are considered an at-risk population for COVID-19. This is because of the case reports of pregnant women who have had difficulty with breathing after delivery, and because pregnant women are known to be at greater risk of severe complications from other respiratory viral infections during pregnancy.
What is the risk that a COVID-19 infection will affect my unborn child?

Some pregnancy complications have been reported among infants born to mothers positive for COVID-19. This includes problems such as preterm delivery and low birth weight. More reports are becoming available every day. It is not clear whether these outcomes were related to infection in the mothers. Given that babies born to mothers who were infected with COVID-19 are still infants, it is possible that other unforeseen complications may be discovered in the future.

If my doctor deems it safe and I choose to proceed with fertility treatment, what else should I know about how COVID-19 may affect my treatment?

It is impossible to know all of the effects that the COVID-19 pandemic could have on your treatment plan. You should know that partners may or may not be permitted to be present for fertility-related procedures or treatments. Whether a partner is allowed to be present will depend on UW Health’s then current visitor policy. These policies are subject to change as the pandemic evolves.

How is Generations handling the financial aspects of fertility treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic?

If you decide to proceed with treatment and your cycle is cancelled, existing policies for offering refunds will be followed. This means that you will be charged for the part of the treatment process that you have completed but not for any treatment that you have not done yet. Speak to the Generations Fertility Care financial counselor for more information about this.

For more resources go to:


Or call Generations Fertility Care at (608) 824-6160.