

Parent Perspectives

The Reality of Being a New and Expectant Parent During COVID-19



A PROGRAM OF EXPECTING HEALTH

Natasha F. Bonhomme

Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in
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The Everyday Realities of New and Expecting Parents

Being Black & Pregnant Was Already Scary — Coronavirus Makes It Even Scarier

DANIELLE CADET

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The rapid spread of COVID-19, the novel virus that has affected the lives and livelihoods of thousands globally, has shifted everything from doing business to administering care. Across the globe, many have been caught in the crossfire attempting to make sense of changing protocol and health precautions. And as things change daily, planning has become nearly

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What It's Like To Be Pregnant In The COVID-19 Pandemic

"I'm **getting anxious** about weird things that I never thought I would be thinking about, like whether or not I want medical professionals to even be touching my baby...**Does my baby also need to wear a mask?"**

-First-time mom in San Mateo, CA

From KOED News

"I worry that I'll be diagnosed with COVID at the time of delivery and be separated immediately from my son...I'm concerned that, due to hospital overcrowding, **there won't be space for me to deliver and I'll be turned away**, and I'm definitely not prepared for the logistics of a **home birth.**"

-Soon-to-be mom of three in Detroit, MI

From Refinery 29



Home Births In The COVID-19 Pandemic

“There's definitely a slight uptick in the number of home births that are happening right now, but **a massive uptick in the number of people inquiring about the possibility of a home birth.**”

-Midwife in Berkeley, CA

From KOED News

“We anticipated an increase in home births and **have not seen a marked increase yet.**”

-Newborn Screening Manager in Kansas



Are hospitals considering newborn screening **non-essential**?


How are providers and public health professionals dealing with **the strain of a pandemic**, and what are hospitals/ health facilities doing to ensure their staff are safe and functioning well during this time?

Do hospitals have **dedicated staff** who will continue to conduct all three components of newborn screening?

As healthcare offices close or reduce staff, are there clear instructions for how to **maintain newborn screening follow-up processes**?

Will my baby be exposed to **COVID-19** while at the hospital for testing?

What plans do we need to have in place for babies who are not screened and for those who **need additional testing**?

A close-up photograph of a newborn baby's feet, held gently by a person wearing a white lab coat. The background is softly blurred, showing the person's torso and arms. The overall tone is warm and clinical.

Systemic Concerns

New staff collecting bloodspots due to furloughed hospital staff

Early discharges from the hospital

Treatment delays due to disruptions in the drug supply and office closures

Disruption in clinical trials and pilot studies

Communicating During a Crisis



Be empathetic
and reaffirming.



Communicate
consistent messages.



Confirm
what we do
know.



Share
trusted
resources.



Examples of Messages to Share with Families

Newborn screening is an essential public health service that continues today.

Healthcare facilities and teams are taking precautions to keep you and your family safe and healthy.

Every baby born in the U.S. receives newborn screening.



FOLLOW-UP TESTING AND NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)

If your baby receives a "positive" or "out-of-range" newborn screening result, your baby will need to have follow-up testing to confirm if they have a health condition or not. It's important to complete this follow-up testing even during this COVID-19 pandemic. Remember, your healthcare team is doing everything to keep you and your family safe!



Specific appointment times.

Healthcare facilities are controlling the number of patients in the building by strategically scheduling appointments to avoid overcrowding.



Social distancing and safety precautions.

Healthcare facilities are following protocols that promote social distancing and other safety measures to reduce your risk of being exposed to COVID-19.



Call ahead.

Confirm your appointment with your provider and ask what you can do to prepare for your visit.

FOLLOW ANY GUIDELINES FROM YOUR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

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Natasha Bonhomme
Nbonhomme@geneticalliance.org



@ExpectHealthOrg
@BabysFirstTest



@ExpectingHealth
@BabysFirstTest



@ExpectingHealth
@BabysFirstTest



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