

The committee has identified this emerging issue from the third quarter of Maternal Mortality Reviews:

** Due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic and the unknowns surrounding pregnancy and the postpartum period, the MMRC expedited the review process of **2020** maternal deaths involving positive COVID-19 diagnosis before, during, and after pregnancy.*

Examples:

- Increased insurance coverage for postpartum risk screening materials for COVID-19 patients such as pulse oxygenation monitors.
- Facilities are encouraged to provide increased post postpartum follow up with all COVID-19 positive patients such as postpartum discharge packet, increased follow up visits, or home visits.
 - https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn.smfm.org/media/2383/Practical_guidance_LMIC_05-20-20.pdf
- Facilities should follow the American Academy of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ACOG) and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) joint guidelines for COVID-19 testing in pregnancy.
 - <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-advisory/articles/2020/03/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- Encourage pregnant and postpartum women to engage in physical distancing, hand hygiene, disinfecting surfaces, wearing a 2 or 3 layer face covering/mask when in public.
- The medical examiners office should perform autopsies on all COVID-19 deaths in pregnancy.
- Facilities should implement increased efforts to ensure additional communication for women with linguistic barriers and other sources of unequal care surrounding minorities.