

# Safer Together

## Respectful Maternity Care during COVID-19 Pandemic



Women and newborns need quality maternity care services and healthworkers must be supported to provide that care. There are no exceptions in times of crisis, even the current COVID-19 pandemic, which is putting more pressure on already overstrained health systems.

**WE'RE CALLING ON EVERYONE TO PLAY THEIR PART** to ensure that all women and newborns receive vital life-saving interventions and that their right to dignity and respect during pregnancy and childbirth is upheld.

### CALL TO ACTION

#### Government

- ✓ Classify reproductive health services as essential and prioritize in the response
- ✓ Include maternal and neonatal health advocates and experts in response task forces
- ✓ Ensure water, sanitation and hygiene services and personal protective equipment is available to all providers
- ✓ Promote evidence-based information and facilitate research for reproductive, maternal and newborn health
- ✓ Remain accountable and transparent, including in providing access to data in a timely fashion

#### NGOs & Media

- ✓ Share evidence-based information with women and families
- ✓ Integrate learnings from women's experiences of pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum to continuously inform decision-makers
- ✓ Collect and share examples of best "out-of-the-box" practices that can be implemented in other settings

#### Healthcare Decision-Makers

- ✓ Issue healthcare guidance based on the latest evidence and keep it updated
- ✓ Ensure health workers follow the latest evidence
- ✓ Ensure adequate personnel who are well-equipped and protected
- ✓ Coordinate with community-based providers
- ✓ Facilitate decisions at the household level

#### Donors

- ✓ Create maximum flexibility to act quickly with donor funds
- ✓ Prioritize robust global health funding with emphasis on needed investments in the workforce and systems
- ✓ Prioritize the need for more data and research to understand the impact of the virus on maternal and neonatal health

#### Professional Associations

- ✓ Deliver consistent messages to their constituencies and to the general public
- ✓ Produce integrated messages with professional associations at global and national levels



To learn more, visit [www.whiteribbonalliance.org/SaferTogether](http://www.whiteribbonalliance.org/SaferTogether)

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