

7<sup>th</sup> of April 2020

CAIRNS  
OBSTETRICS &  
GYNAECOLGY  
DR. NATALIE KIESEY-CALDING

Dear valued patient of Cairns Obstetrics and Gynaecology (COG),

I am writing to you today as we find ourselves in an impending health crisis with COVID19. The direct implication of COVID19 in pregnancy appears to be low. However, the data is early and very limited.

In view of this uncertainty, and the need to ensure your health is maximised, all pregnancy schedules and services will be modified ahead to **maximise safety**.

This has immediately involved the following steps at COG:

- NO patients or staff are permitted into COG if at risk for COVID-19 as per government guidelines
- ALL patients and staff are screened for COVID-19 at COG entry via a series of questions
- NO hand shaking or physical greetings are allowed at COG
- ALL surfaces are wiped down regularly during the day and hand sanitiser available.
- NO holding of babies or toddlers at COG by the COG staff and **children should only attend if there is no other practical solution for their care.**
- ONLY one *essential* support person permitted to attend appointments and to be present at the hospital.
  
- Pregnancy appointments will now be kept to an *absolute* essential only  
Some pregnancy appointments with Dr. Natalie and midwife Jillian will be able to be converted to SKYPE consultations.
- **ALL face to face appointments will be kept to a minimum amount of time** (the COVID 19 data shows this reduces transmission risk)
  - *This saddens us greatly as we recognise that this is discordant to how we usually like to support our families. In view of COVID-19 we must put safety first and attempt to minimise the direct contact time you have with the clinic*

Your individual pregnancy schedule will be reviewed and adjusted according. This is being done to minimise your exposure to the practice, and to minimise your exposure to us.

IF we find ourselves in the unfortunate scenario of a positive COVID-19 case at COG, COG will be closed for a minimum of 14 days.

In the emergency situation that *both* Dr Natalie and midwife Jillian are quarantined concurrently, **cover will be arranged on an ad hoc basis via the other private and public obstetricians and gynaecologists.**

This is an unprecedented time in healthcare and in our community. Our healthcare practices are not at all as we hoped, but we must put safety first.

**Thank you for your kind understanding with these changes.**