

COVID-19 Considerations and Waiver

DVIF&G understands that infertility treatment is time sensitive due to multiple factors such as advancing maternal age, insurance coverage, mental health, and social circumstances. At this time, very little is known about COVID-19 and its effect on reproduction pregnancy. The practice has chosen to resume treatment cycles and patients were asked to read and acknowledge the following prior to proceeding:

Currently, the Centers for Disease Control and American Society of Reproductive Medicine do not discourage pregnancy in the absence of symptoms. There is no conclusive evidence of vertical transmission from mother to fetus, nonetheless data is limited. Existing data support that other viral illnesses, including flu, and febrile conditions of any kind during pregnancy may increase the risks of miscarriage, birth defects, neural tube defects, stillbirth, and preterm birth. Furthermore, medications to treat COVID-19 are not currently approved for use in pregnancy. As a precautionary measure and in line with the lack of adequate information we, as patients, were asked to consider deferring fertility treatment until 1) the pandemic is over, 2) measures of effective treatment and prevention are available or 3) such information is available indicating that there is no adverse effect to the fetus the pregnancy or the pregnant mother.

Options have been discussed with us, including 1) out of an abundance of caution, deferring pregnancy until we have more data or 2) proceeding with a treatment strategy which does not involve extensive monitoring (office performed ultrasounds, blood tests and procedures) that might result in pregnancy.

I understand that by proceeding with a fertility treatment with very limited and rapidly changing data, that at any point future data may indicate that COVID-19 exposure may result in harm to mother or baby, or may cause specific pregnancy complications when acquired preconception or during pregnancy. Should both of us opt to continue with fertility treatment under these circumstances, we were advised to avoid contact with potentially infected individuals, use the recommended measures of social distancing, wear masks whenever avoidance is not feasible, participate in meticulous hand washing, restrict our exposure to a limited number of individuals, and avoid travel to known areas of infection.

Further, we understand if we elect to proceed with a treatment strategy that may result in a pregnancy, at any point THE CYCLE MAY BE CANCELED due to changes in my status, that of the caregivers, or additional information concerning Covid-19 and its effect on the pregnancy or the fetus. Should the CDC or ASRM put forward a statement explicitly discouraging pregnancy, DVIF&G will follow this guidance and will not proceed with any cycle which may result in a pregnancy. We further understand that there may come a point where the clinic may not be able to support treatment cycles (e.g, illness of doctors or laboratory staff which would prevent DVIF&G from rendering services). We further understand that should either of us be directly exposed to COVID-19, be diagnosed with COVID-19, or become symptomatic with any febrile illness which could possibly be COVID-19 (even in the absence of a positive COVID-19 test) DVIF&G will not proceed with our cycle. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ANY MONIES I MAY HAVE INVESTED (E.G., MEDICATION EXPENSES) WILL NOT BE REIMBURSED SHOULD THIS OCCUR.

We have been counseled by my physician regarding the information in this document and we have had the time to consider the options. WE are electing to proceed with a treatment strategy which may result in pregnancy.

Patient Name

Patient Signature

Date

Partner Name

Partner Signature

Date

Physician Signature

Date