

March 18, 2020

Dear Patient,

You and your baby's safety are our top priority. Due to COVID-19, we are working hard to minimize contact for both our patients and our staff. We appreciate your patience as we might have several changes in the next few weeks. We will do our best to inform you of any changes at our practice. Please follow and check the St. Bernards Healthcare Facebook page as well as stbernards.info/coronavirus for our most up-to-date information.

We will call you to confirm your next appointment in our clinic and give you specific instructions for checking-in.

We know COVID-19 is most commonly spread from an infected person to others through different means: airborne droplets, close contact (including touching and shaking hands) and touching your nose, mouth and eyes before thoroughly washing your hands. It is currently unknown if COVID-19 is passed through semen or sexual intercourse.

How does COVID-19 affect pregnancy and breastfeeding?

There is limited information about COVID-19 risks to pregnant women or the severity of infection. Current data is reassuring, but limited, to a sample of less than 20 patients. Pregnant women are more likely to have weaker immune systems and experience physical changes, making them more likely to contract viral respiratory infections. It is possible that pregnant women may be at greater risk for severe illnesses. In limited studies on women with COVID-19 and another coronavirus infection, Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS-CoV), the virus has not been detected in breast milk; however we do not know whether mothers with COVID-19 can transmit the virus via breast milk.

Based on CDC recommendations, any patient who has been tested for COVID-19 or has confirmed for the virus will be temporarily separated from their baby after birth.

Since information about this disease changes rapidly and misinformation is spreading, we encourage you to continue checking the following website for updates or questions:

[CDC.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/pregnancy-breastfeeding.html)

Sincerely,

OB Physicians
St. Bernards Healthcare



St. Bernards
OB-GYN Associates
800 S. Church, Suite 302
Jonesboro, AR 72401

stbobgyn.com

Phone: 870.935.3990
Fax: 870.935.0871

Jacqueline Conger, M.D.

Drew Dunham, M.D.

Carl B. Edwards, M.D., FACOG

Steven L. Emerson, M.D., FACOG

Brad Fields, M.D., FACOG

Earl W. Montgomery, M.D.

Joseph O. Sams, IV, M.D., FACOG

John T. St. Clair, M.D., FACOG

Serena Vance, D.O., FACOG



St. Bernards Pregnancy Clinic
800 S. Church, Ste. 203
Jonesboro, AR 72401

stbernards.info

Phone: 870.207.0421

Brad Fields, M.D., FACOG

Stephen Lunde, M.D.

Dimsey Brown, APRN

Mable Prunty APRN