



COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Support for People in Labor During the Covid-19 Pandemic

The value of human presence and the right for individuals to have involvement of family members, however defined, in all health care experiences are integral concepts threaded throughout the American College of Nurse-Midwives Philosophy and Standards for the Practice of Midwifery. Institutional decisions that limit the ability of a laboring person to have access to desired support people of their choosing, including doulas, can be difficult for midwives and families to comprehend and seems inconsistent with optimal care. ACNM recognizes that we are in an unprecedented time of healthcare system crisis where situations are fluid and resources are extremely limited. In such times, institutions must be able to initiate measures to assure the least possible risk of exposure to the individuals and families in their care as well as the entire healthcare team and ultimately our communities. ACNM advocates for the presence of a supportive partner and doulas in the care of a laboring person in all but extreme circumstances when the potential risk of contagion outweighs the known benefit of a supportive presence for a laboring individual.

References:

American College of Nurse-Midwives. Philosophy of the American College of Nurse-Midwives. <https://www.midwife.org/default.aspx?bid=59&cat=2&button=Search&rec=49>. Published September 2004. Accessed March 26, 2020.

American College of Nurse-Midwives. Standards for the Practice of Midwifery. https://www.midwife.org/acnm/files/ACNMLibraryData/UPLOADFILENAME/000000000051/Standards_for_Practice_of_Midwifery_Sept_2011.pdf. Approved March 8, 2003. Updated September 24, 2011. Accessed March 26, 2020.