



## FSA Statement | COVID-19

COVID-19 was declared a pandemic on 11 March 2020 by the WHO.

For up to date information on the status of COVID-19 in Australia please refer to the Federal Health website <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert#current-status>.

For up to date information on the status of COVID-19 in New Zealand please refer to the following website:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

There is little information on the impact of COVID-19 on pregnancy. The number of pregnant women who have contracted COVID-19 and have subsequently delivered is small and the reassuring results so far, including no evidence of mother-to-baby transmission during pregnancy, must be interpreted with caution.

The Fertility Society of Australia recommends that individuals seeking to become pregnant naturally or by way of Assisted Reproductive Technology (IVF) should avoid non-essential travel to known areas of infection and avoid contact with individuals who may have become infected or have travelled to or from an area that is known to be of high risk. This advice applies to people of all genders.

In Australia and New Zealand, the people most at risk of getting COVID-19 are those who have recently been in a high-risk country or region or have been in close contact with someone who has a confirmed case of COVID-19. However, this may change when community transmission within Australia itself becomes more common. The Australian and New Zealand Government instituted travel restrictions to several countries considered high risk. This information is available on the above websites.

At this point, there is no evidence to recommend contraception or cessation of attempts to conceive, either unassisted or assisted.

Patients of fertility clinics undergoing active treatment, including sperm donors, oocyte donors and gestational carriers, with either a high likelihood of having COVID-19 because of symptoms (fever and/or cough, shortness of breath) or exposure (exposure within 2 meters of a confirmed COVID-19 patient and within 14 days of onset of symptoms, or a person with a positive COVID-19 test result) should contact their treating doctor or fertility clinic by phone or email for advice on how this may impact their current fertility treatment. The FSA advises that these patients consider freezing all oocytes or embryos and avoid an embryo transfer until they are shown to be disease-free.



For more information on COVID-19 please visit your state, territory or provincial health service website. All states, territories and provinces provide up-to-date information on the level of infection within the community and also provide detailed information on what to do should you suspect that you may be infected with COVID-19.

References:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

<https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus>

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

**Dated:** Sunday 15 March 2020