Maintaining the Integrity of the Birth Center Model During Crisis

The American Association of Birth Centers acknowledges that:

- Many childbearing families are fearful about giving birth in a hospital due to the COVID-19 pandemic;\textsuperscript{1,2,3}
- Birth centers are experiencing increased rates of demand for services;\textsuperscript{1,2,3}
- The birth center model is founded on evidence-based standards of care for low-risk pregnant people;\textsuperscript{4}
- Birth centers work together with other providers, facilities, and systems to ensure pregnant people receive the appropriate level of care throughout pregnancy, labor and delivery, and postpartum;\textsuperscript{5,6}
- Birth centers are a high-value option for maternity care and complement the existing hospital-based system;\textsuperscript{5-8} and
- The birth center model has been shown to improve health outcomes for childbearing families.\textsuperscript{5-8}

It is AABC’s position that:

- For the integrity of the model, and the safety of the families served, it is imperative not to deviate from the established \textit{Standards for Birth Centers}, even in times of crisis.
- Birth centers should review and modify protocols to adapt to safely providing care during the pandemic.

REFERENCES


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