



Waiver of Liability: Fertility Care during the COVID-19 Pandemic

I/we have requested an initiation or resumption of my care, despite uncertainties related to the risks that I/we may be taking. I understand that our current understanding of the COVID-19 virus, its transmission and risks to humans is incomplete and constantly changing.

What we do know is that COVID-19 is a highly contagious respiratory virus that can be transmitted by asymptomatic people. It has been estimated that as many as 25% of the patients who contract COVID-19 never have any symptoms, making it hard to protect anyone including women who want to conceive or are pregnant. The known consequences of contracting the COVID-19 virus range from being asymptomatic to respiratory failure and death. A variety of comorbidities increase the risk of having a more severe course of infection but seemingly healthy young people can develop respiratory failure and die. What determines the wide range of presentations is still a mystery to scientists and physicians.

Information on how this virus impacts pregnancy is limited and evolving. Thus far, public health officials have not advised women to avoid pregnancy, but significant risks to a mother or a developing baby could be discovered. Regardless of the impact of this virus, febrile illnesses of any kind can increase miscarriage rates and be associated with preterm birth. Therefore, if attempting conception, social distancing, wearing facial covering and even self-quarantining if possible is advised.

The American Society for Reproductive Medicine (ASRM) has advised fertility programs across the US to pause most fertility services indefinitely and it is updating its recommendations approximately every two weeks. At the same time, it is widely acknowledged that treating infertility is not elective; it is time sensitive in many women and the risk of contracting this virus could be significant for over a year from now. Because the epidemic is still evolving in the US, it is unclear when infertility care should be resumed.

Integral Healing LLC understands that waiting for extended periods of time to conceive may be very difficult for some patients. We understand that patients are capable of and do make risk assessment decisions for themselves every day. This process is facilitated by the informed consent process. There will never be a time when the risk of contracting this COVID-19 virus is zero but the risks are clearly higher in the earlier stages of the epidemic. With regard to pregnancy, the American College of Ob Gyn has a message to patients that they are updating regularly. It can be found at:

<https://www.acog.org/patient-resources/faqs/pregnancy/coronavirus-pregnancy-and-breastfeeding>

Understanding the above and, as an expression of reproductive rights and autonomy, I/we do not want to wait any longer before attempting reproduction. We wish to proceed with fertility treatment, possibly contrary to the recommendations of health authorities. I/We agree to abide by any recommended procedures / protocols instituted, including the fact that treatment may need to be cancelled at any point in time. I/We also do hereby accept any and all risks with our attempts of reproduction and absolve, release, indemnify, protect and hold Integral Healing LLC harmless from any and all liability (including attorney fees and costs) for the consequences of same, whether mental or physical nature of character, to ourselves or any child or children so conceived or born, and for affirmative acts or acts of omission which may arise during the performance of this agreement.

In signing this document, my/our questions have been answered to my/our satisfaction.

Patient: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____

Partner: _____

Date: ____ / ____ / ____