



COVID-19 Pandemic and MPP Protection

The COVID-19 pandemic has created challenges that many health care providers have not had to consider before. The Midwives Protection Program (MPP) offers this statement to provide support to registered midwives in understanding their malpractice liability coverage.

MPP covers the professional practice liability concerns of registered midwives who are members of the Midwives Association of BC and who are in good standing with the College of Midwives of British Columbia (CMBC). Malpractice liability provides coverage for third party losses arising out of midwifery services rendered by a midwife while acting within the scope of their duties as set out in the *Health Professions Act* and *Midwives Regulation BC Reg 103/95*. MPP protection also extends to registered midwives for the defence of legal actions arising out of the provision of professional midwifery services.

CMBC sets the standards of professional practice for registered midwives and has a dedicated [COVID-19 Web Page](#), which provides up-to-date resource information as well as a history of all communications to midwives from CMBC. These communications detail the minimum requirements for safe midwifery practice during the COVID-19 pandemic and provide interpretation of many of their standards in the context of the pandemic. CMBC has provided assurance to midwives that “as long as your decisions and actions are documented, explained to clients, and are based on your best judgement with the information available at the time, you are meeting CMBC standards of practice”.

This CMBC statement aligns with MPP’s risk management advice to midwives. MPP understands that information related to the pandemic is changing rapidly and emphasizes the importance of midwives doing their best to stay abreast of key information; maintain open lines of communication with their clients, peers, and other health colleagues; and, document their rationale for decision-making. The following MPP publications capture more detailed risk advice to midwives around two primary risks:

- [Documentation for Midwives](#): identifies common charting issues and provides tips and resources.
- [Informed Choice for Midwives](#): outlines key aspects of gaining and documenting informed consent and refusal.

CMBC has provided a [guidance FAQ](#) which answers many questions related to community-based care including how the availability of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) may impact delivery of care decisions. Registered midwives can rest assured that MPP professional liability coverage remains in place when a midwife uses her professional judgment to attend a home delivery without PPE or decides to restrict care to a hospital setting in order to comply with the [BC Centre for Disease Control recommendation](#) to use PPE during delivery.

Contacts:

Midwives Association of BC

Midwives should contact the MABC at 604-736-5976 to discuss issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the extent of MPP coverage.

College of Midwives of BC

Midwives should contact CMBC at information@cmbc.bc.ca to ask questions related to meeting the *Standards of Practice* or other CMBC requirements. All the midwifery leaders in BC are working collaboratively with the Ministry of Health and the Provincial Health Officer’s team to enable midwives to gain access to safety equipment. Please note all updates related to this matter will be posted on [CMBC’s website](#).

Midwives Protection Program

Midwives should contact MPP at 250-356-1794 or RMBClaims@gov.bc.ca for complaints or unexpected outcomes that meet our [Incident Reporting Guidelines](#).

March 31, 2020 - It should be clearly understood that this document and the information contained is not intended as a comprehensive or exhaustive review of MPP coverage.