

COVID-19

INFORMATION UPDATE



May 28, 2020

To: Clinical Operations Leadership, Acute Care Perinatal Care Providers
From: Maternal, Newborn, Child and Youth Network
Infection Prevention and Control

Re: UPDATE: Entonox Use in Labour and Delivery

Previous direction from Interior Health had instructed sites to discontinue the use of inhaled nitrous oxide (Entonox) during the COVID-19 pandemic due to uncertainty around the risk of contamination and the potential for aerosolization. Upon further consideration, this position is being reversed due to the following points:

- Entonox delivery systems do not utilize positive pressure when delivering gas and instead relies on the patient breathing in, under their own effort. This does not create the increased velocity necessary to aerosolize a droplet, and as such the use of Entonox is not considered an AGMP, and standard droplet contact precautions can take place in the presence of a COVID-19 positive or suspect patient
- Circuit contamination can be prevented by the use of a bacterial/viral filter placed between the patient mouthpiece or mask and the Entonox delivery circuit, and these are readily available at acute care sites in Interior Health

Based on the above information, **Entonox can be safely used on labour and delivery units for pain management.**

This direction is in alignment with the current BC Centre for Disease Control [Guideline for the Admission and Hospital Management of Pregnant Women/Individuals Who Are a Confirmed or Suspect Case of COVID-19](#)
