

# AWHONN's Position on Doula's with Patients During COVID-19

UPDATE: March 11, 2020

AWHONN recognizes that doula services contribute to the woman's preparation for and support during childbirth and opposes hospital policies that restrict the presence of a doula during a woman's active labor." *Doulas are not visitors and should not be blocked from caring for patients in the antepartum, intrapartum and postpartum period.* Most doulas have been contracted by patients weeks to months ahead of time and have established provider relationships.

*They are recognized by AWHONN and ACOG as essential personnel and part of the maternity care team,"* said AWHONN member Nancy Travis, MS, BSN, RN, BC, CPN, CBC, Florida Section Chair. AWHONN supports doulas as partners in care and acknowledges their ability to provide physical, emotional, and partner support to women.

*AWHONN opposes hospital policies that restrict the presence of a doula in the inpatient setting during an infectious disease outbreak.*

Read more about AWHONN's position on continuous labor support for every woman here - [https://www.jogrn.org/article/S0884-2175\(17\)30482-3/pdf](https://www.jogrn.org/article/S0884-2175(17)30482-3/pdf)

Statement taken from: <https://awhonn.org/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

