**The use of birth pools for a planned home birth during the COVID 19 pandemic**.

CDHB are advising that only women suspected or confirmed to have Covid-19 will be advised not to birth in water.

**Key points to consider**:

\* homebirth should continue as normal for low risk women

\* whanau and support people should really just be those who normally live at the house at this time, or people who are in the pregnant woman’s ‘bubble’ (ie one or two people who are also ONLY having contact with the pregnant woman’s household, no one else)

\* ALL people present for a homebirth should be questioned to determine whether they have any risk factors for Covid-19 infection (recent travel, in isolation, possible contact, symptomatic)

\* IF all of these conditions are satisfied, we feel it is appropriate for the labouring woman to use a pool in labour

\* Midwives should consider taking extra precautions, including vigilant handwashing, using sterile gloves when scooping poops in the water and catching baby, consider protective eyewear.

\* Pools MUST have a terminal clean after use. We cannot leave this for the families to do in this situation, so once they have done the usual clean and pack up, we then need to take the pool away, and re-clean it with a proper bleach solution and dry carefully.