# Survey: Half of Americans Concerned About New Moms and Babies Being in Public Places

Doctors are adapting their practices to keep moms and babies safe as COVID-19 restrictions are lifted

## \*Note: Embargoed until Thursday May 7, 2020 at 12:01 a.m. eastern

The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center		
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Package Length: 1:55	Content provided by: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center	

#### NEWS PACKAGE

SUGGESTED TEASE	PREGNANCY OFTEN COMES WITH HEALTH-RELATED ANXIETIES, BUT A NEW SURVEY REVEALS THE HEIGHTENED FEARS FOR EXPECTANT MOMS FOLLOWING THE EMERGENCE OF CORONAVIRUS. DETAILS, COMING UP.
ANCHOR LEAD	AS COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS BEGIN TO LIFT, THE FEARS CREATED BY THE PANDEMIC REMAIN WITH US. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE FOR EXPECTANT MOTHERS, WHO HAVE A HEIGHTENED CONCERN FOR THE HEALTH OF THEMSELVES AND THEIR BABIES AND RELY ON REGULAR APPOINTMENTS IN HEALTHCARE FACILITIES TO AVOID COMPLICATIONS. BARB CONSIGLIO HAS MORE ON A NEW SURVEY GAUGING THE CONCERNS OF PARENTS AND STEPS BEING TAKEN BY THE MEDICAL COMMUNITY TO ENSURE THEIR SAFETY.
(PACKAGE START)	(Nats - Sound) :02
CG: Courtesy: The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center :00 - :03 Shots of Erin picking Jaxson up	ERIN HOFFMAN GAVE BIRTH TO HER SON JAXSON JUST BEFORE STAY-AT-HOME ORDERS WERE ISSUED.
Shots of Erin pushing Jaelyn on swing	NOT ONLY DID SHE HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SECURE CARE FOR HER NEWBORN AMID COVID-19 HOSPITAL RESTRICTIONS, BUT ALSO HOW
CG: Erin Hoffman Mom of two	TO KEEP HER FAMILY SAFE IN EVERYDAY LIFE. :11 <i>"It is a lot of information at once. It can be confusing on what you do and don't do."</i> :06

Shots of Erin on her phone	WITH AN ENDLESS AMOUNT OF OPINIONS AND ADVICE AT THEIR FINGERTIPS, MESSAGES FOR PARENTS ARE EVEN MORE MUDDLED THAN USUAL. :08
CG: Dr. Jonathan Schaffir Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	<i>"We always do encourage pregnant women to be looking at websites that are reliable and that are vouched by medical professionals as being accurate and informative."</i> :12
Shots of Erin and kids leaving house Shots of Erin loading car seat in	STILL, ANXIETY ABOUT THE VIRUS WILL LIKELY STICK AROUND AS WE ADJUST TO LIFE AFTER COVID-19. DOCTOR'S APPOINTMENTS MAY FEEL UNEASY AND EVEN GOING TO THE GROCERY STORE OR PICKING UP LUNCH SEEMS RISKY WITH
car	AN INFANT.
Graphic with survey results	A NEW NATIONAL SURVEY BY THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER CONFIRMS THESE LINGERING FEARS, FINDING THAT NEARLY EIGHTY PERCENT OF RESPONDENTS WOULD BE
Shot of car door closing	CONCERNED ABOUT THEMSELVES OR AN EXPECTANT MOTHER IN THEIR LIFE IN THE MIDST OF THE CURRENT COVID-19 OUTBREAK, WITH ALMOST HALF EXPRESSING FEAR OF GOING TO A SCHEDULED PRENATAL APPOINTMENT. :25
	(NATS Closing car door) :01
Shotsof Dr. Schaffir walking down hall	DOCTOR JONATHAN SCHAFFIR SAYS WHILE THE FEAR OF INFECTION IS VALID, IT SHOULD NOT PREVENT WOMEN FROM SEEING THEIR DOCTOR.
Graphic with patient safety precautions	EVERY PRECAUTION IS BEING TAKEN TO KEEP PATIENTS SAFE IN THE OFFICE WITH STAFF WEARING MASKS, FACE SHIELDS AND GLOVES, WIPING DOWN SURFACES BETWEEN PATIENTS AND LIMITING APPOINTMENTS TO ONLY WHAT IS NECESSARY. :16
Dr. Schaffir (CG'd earlier)	<i>"It's important for women to know that we are trying to make sure that when we say that you need to come into the office or the hospital, that that really is the case." :10</i>
Shots of Erin logging into telehealth appointment	ERIN HAD ALL OF HER POSTPARTUM VISITS VIA TELEHEALTH, AS WELL AS SOME OF JAXSON'S WELLNESS VISITS, AND SAYS SHE'S GRATEFUL IT WAS AN OPTION FOR HER. :07
Erin Hoffman (CG'd earlier)	"You don't have to sit in the waiting room with other sick people for your wellness visits. You're not exposing yourself to that, even in the future when coronavirus isn't a concern." :09

Shots of Erin holding baby	AT THE OHIO STATE WEXNER MEDICAL CENTER, THIS IS BARB CONSIGLIO REPORTING. :03
(PACKAGE END)	
ANCHOR TAG	EXPERTS SAY AS RESTRICTIONS ARE LIFTED ACROSS THE COUNTRY, THEY EXPECT TELEHEALTH TO CONTINUE TO BE AN OPTION, ESPECIALLY FOR POSTPARTUM APPOINTMENTS THAT ARE OFTEN BASED ON DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN DOCTORS AND PATIENTS AND DON'T REQUIRE MANY TESTS OR PROCEDURES.

#### SOCIAL MEDIA

Share it! Suggested tweet:	A national survey by <u>@OSUWexMed</u> finds fears for pre and postpartum women created by COVID-19 will remain as the country returns to normalcy. How doctors are adjusting their practices to keep them safe while providing the necessary care. <u>https://bit.ly/2zcVmKb</u>
Suggested post:	The coronavirus pandemic has created new health concerns for expectant mothers about things like keeping doctors appointments and exposing mom and baby to infection, and a national survey by <u>The Ohio State</u> <u>University Wexner Medical Center</u> finds these fears will remain even as the country returns to normalcy. Learn what doctors are doing to keep women and babies safe while providing the care they need. <u>https://bit.ly/2zcVmKb</u>

### **EXTRA BITES**

CG: Dr. Jonathan Schaffir Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	Schaffir says babies do not contract COVID-19 in utero: "A reassuring thing is that this virus is transmitted just by droplets through the air and not through the bloodstream. So it appears that babies cannot be infected through the placenta, and at least women can rest assured that their babies are not going to get the COVID virus while they're inside their wombs." :20
	Schaffir describes precautions being taken by hospital staff: "Everyone is wearing eye protection as well as face masks to prevent any kind of droplets from spreading. Everything is wiped off and cleaned in between every patient. Hands are washed constantly." :13
	Schaffir says patients appreciate the option of telehealth: "I think a lot of patients, certainly pregnant women, but patients in general are appreciating the ability to connect with their caretakers without having to come in to an office, 04:20:41 especially if they have other children at home and other needs to take care of in the household." :18

CG: Dr. Jonathan Schaffir Ohio State Wexner Medical Center	Schaffir says family members are meeting babies over video chat: <i>"It's always been a tradition that when the baby is born,</i> <i>the in-laws and the grandparents rush to the hospital to</i> <i>see the baby first thing. I think now a lot of people are</i> <i>getting acquainted with their babies through FaceTime</i> <i>and Skype and internet." :15</i>
CG: Erin Hoffman	Erin says she worries about germs both her children are exposed to: <i>"At his age he's always going to be with us, so we know</i> <i>what he's surrounded by or what he's being exposed to.</i> <i>But then we also have the five-year-old, so if she's</i> <i>touching things and then wanting to touch the baby, that's</i> <i>a concern too." :12</i>
Mom of two	Erin says she's diligent about exposed items like car seat covers: "When I brought him to the doctor, I didn't use his typical car seat cover because I didn't want to expose it to the elements, so we just threw a blanket over him and then washed it as soon as we got back home. And then we've had to be concerned about things we bring into the house too." :13
	Erin says it is difficult to explain distancing to her 5-year-old: "Teaching a five-year-old how to understand the dangers of what's going on, why she can't see her friends, why she has to, even if we go out front and play and don't play with anyone, wash our hands, and teaching her good practices for being around her brother." :15

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