

between 4 and –70°C. Urine samples must also be collected using a sterile container and stored in the laboratory at a temperature that ranges between 4 and –70°C.³²

7 PREGNANCY

Currently, there is a paucity of knowledge and data related to the consequences of COVID-19 during pregnancy.^{40,42} However, pregnant women seem to have a high risk of developing severe infection and complications during the recent 2019-nCoV outbreak.^{41–43} This speculation was based on previous available scientific reports on coronaviruses during pregnancy (SARS-CoV and MERS-CoV) as well as the limited number of COVID-19 cases.^{41–43} Analyzing the clinical features and outcomes of 10 newborns (including two sets of twins) in China, whose mothers are confirmed cases of COVID-19, revealed that perinatal infection with 2019-nCoV may lead to adverse outcomes for the neonates, for example, premature labour, respiratory distress, thrombocytopenia with abnormal liver function and even death.⁴⁴ It is still unclear whether or not the COVID-19 infection can be transmitted during pregnancy to the fetus through the transplacental route.⁴² A recent case series report, which assessed intrauterine vertical transmission of