



**CPTBC**

College of Physical Therapists  
of British Columbia

## COVID-19 Advice to Registrants

Dear Registrants,

The College recognizes that the COVID-19 situation is unprecedented, uncertain and challenging for the public, patients and registrants. Along with our regulatory colleagues in British Columbia and across Canada, the College staff is keeping up to date on emerging news about COVID-19 and making information available on our website <http://www.cptbc.org>. The College website was updated on March 17<sup>th</sup> and staff will continue to update the website as new information becomes available.

Many registrants and clinic owners in the community, including but not limited to private practice, in-home private services and mobile physical therapy services, are asking for advice about suspending services. The College does not have the legal authority to mandate practice closures or direct physical therapists to cease practice. Rather the College is looking to public health principles and guidance provided by BC's Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry to inform our advice to registrants and the public.

To date, our advice has been that registrants and clinic owners should do their own risk assessment and determine what is best for individuals, patients and staff. We continue to believe that individual risk assessment is good practice, however, in light of the March 16<sup>th</sup> Ministry of Health press conference announcing the cancellation of acute care scheduled and elective surgeries, increasing restrictions in Long Term Care, the **College strongly recommends** that physical therapists and physical therapist support workers providing services in the community only do so to address patients with urgent needs. The College cannot define what is urgent as the context of each practice is the key consideration. Factors to consider when weighing whether your practice- or aspects of it- provides an urgent service include the patient population, practice location and other available services.

Services may be postponed, cancelled or provided by tele-rehabilitation if tele-rehabilitation is an appropriate option to meet patient needs. Tele-rehabilitation services should be provided in accordance with standards of practice and advice previously provided by the College. The College also encourages community service providers to consider waiving any cancellation fees. As always, we encourage registrants to use the Code of Ethical Conduct and Standards of Practice as you make decisions about continuing or discontinuing services.

The College recognizes that decisions being made with respect to COVID-19 come with consequences: personal, financial and ethical and these are very challenging times. If you have specific questions that are not addressed on the website please email [practicequestions@cptbc.org](mailto:practicequestions@cptbc.org). Please note that the practice advisors are receiving a large number of emails and calls and will respond as quickly as possible.

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Registrar

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