



CPTBC

College of Physical Therapists
of British Columbia

Further College Direction Regarding Community Physical Therapy Services

Update on College Direction: March 26th, 2020

Since sending out the notice on March 24th, outlining Dr. Bonnie Henry's expectations of health care practitioners, including physical therapists, the College has received many follow up questions and comments. This has escalated today, March 26th, following the press release about essential services. Please be advised that while physical therapists are listed on the essential services list, this does not mean that all physical therapy services are deemed essential. For community services Dr. Henry's expectations remain in place as per our notice of March 24th.

Physical therapists are asking the College to provide more direction about community practice. If you are practicing in any community setting (this **does not apply** to regulated health professionals when providing patient and client care in designated facilities or institutions regulated by the *Hospital Act*, the *Health Authorities Act*, the *Community Care and Assisted Living Act*, the *Mental Health Act*, or other relevant Acts) the College direction is as follows:

1. **“Go Home, Stay Home” until further notice (unless working in a designated facility).**
2. **Provide physical therapy services by tele-rehabilitation, if appropriate.**
3. **Only provide in-person services if the patient's needs are urgent and the patient is at risk of serious or imminent harm. This would constitute exceptional circumstances.**
4. **If exceptional circumstances apply, you must comply with infection prevention and control and personal protection requirements set out by Public Health.**

We trust that these expectations are clear and physical therapists will respect them. If the College receives further guidance from Dr. Henry that changes the above direction we will advise all registrants.

A frequently asked questions document can be found at:

<https://cptbc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/March-25-FAQs-following-Provincial-Medical-Officer-Notice.pdf>.

We understand that you may still have specific questions that are not covered by the information on the College COVID-19 web page (<https://cptbc.org/covid19/>), if so please email practicequestions@cptbc.org.

Thank you.

