



College of
Chiropodists
of Ontario

A MESSAGE TO ALL CHIROPODIST AND PODIATRISTS IN ONTARIO - COVID-19 PANDEMIC

March 15, 2020

In these unprecedented (and rapidly changing) times, many questions are being asked about what Members should do in response to the COVID -19 pandemic. Executive of the College of Chiropodists of Ontario (COCOO) held an emergency meeting tonight. In accordance with our mandate to act in the public's interest and in hearing the numerous comments made to us by members, in consultation with public health and others, we are offering to the membership the following measures and guidelines in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. COCOO **strongly recommends** that all non-essential and elective chiropody and podiatry services should be suspended immediately. Emergency treatment and post operative care should continue.

The College will revisit this recommendation in the first week of April.

We have received many calls over the past 24 hours from Members concerned about keeping practices open and putting their patients, communities and staff at risk.

In addition, many health care providers in community settings have not been able to secure a reasonable supply of PPE that would be required to actively treat COVID-19 cases.

These factors, along with a spike in new cases and the call for effective social distancing, make it clear that bold action is required.

Since this suspension will potentially affect members of your office staff, we recommend that you consult with an employment lawyer.



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2. The College will continue to enforce the Standard on Infection Prevention and Control, in cooperation with public health.

The current crisis requires continued rigour regarding IPAC. The College will not be relaxing any Standards or required processes.

I, and COCOO Council hope you remain safe and healthy during these extraordinary times.

Best regards

Martin



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