

From: **Peter Ferguson | COCOO Acting Practice Advisor (sent from Member Portal)**

<practice@cocoo.on.ca>

Date: Mon, Jun 13, 2022 at 7:20 PM

Subject: Ontario Government Announcement

Dear Member,

On June 8, 2022 the Ontario Government [announced](#) that effective June 11, 2022, the current [Directives](#), including the Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart document that require masks and screening in health care settings, will be revoked, with the exception of long-term care and retirement homes. The government further indicated that it will be issuing guidance for health care workers to replace these Directives, including guidance on when masks should be worn in health care settings. As of today's date, this guidance has not yet been released. COCOO will provide more information on this guidance as soon as it becomes available. On June 10, 2022, the Ministry of Health did, however, issue updated guidance on [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\) for Health Care Workers and Health Care Entities](#) that includes guidance on point of care risk assessment , which members should review and follow.

In the interim, we know that many of you have questions about how to navigate patient care in the coming days and weeks. With mandatory masking no longer in effect, COCOO expects that some patients may wish to remain masked, some may want their chiropractor or podiatrist to be masked, and some chiropractors or podiatrists may request that patients wear a mask. If you determine that it would be appropriate to have a masking policy to minimize the risk of infection, this should be communicated to patients before their appointment. Be prepared to have respectful discussions with patients to explain why the policy is in place, and alternatives you can offer if a patient does not wish to wear a mask. For example, referral to another clinic that can accommodate them. Risk assessment, careful communication, tolerance, and professional judgement should continue to guide members' decisions on treatment and the use of personal protective equipment.

COCOO encourages members to continue to assess the risks posed by COVID-19 and take steps to comply with the standards of practice on [Infection Prevention and Control](#). Members must also continue to comply with any further laws, orders, directives or other guidance that may be issued by the government or public health going forward, including relating to masks.

Please continue to check our website regularly as we work to update our COVID-19 information section and FAQ page. In addition, be sure to follow the COCOO on social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) for the latest updates.

The COCOO recognizes the incredible efforts members have made since the onset of the pandemic to ensure that Ontario patients continue to have access to safe, high-quality chiropractic and podiatry services and we will continue to offer support and guidance.

If you have any further questions or concerns, please reach out to us at practice@cocoo.on.ca