



## COLLEGE OF CHIROPODISTS OF ONTARIO

*Regulating Chiropodists and Podiatrists in Ontario*

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May 17, 2020

Dr. David Williams  
Chief Medical Officer of Health  
393 University Ave  
21st Floor  
Toronto, ON  
M5G 2M2  
[dr.david.williams@ontario.ca](mailto:dr.david.williams@ontario.ca)

Dr. Williams

As I am sure you are aware, the College of Chiropodists is the regulator in the Province for all chiropodists and podiatrists. It is statutorily mandated to regulate its members in the public interest, a responsibility that is taken very seriously by our Council (Board of Directors) and its Executive Committee. The College has been working tirelessly to guide our members and inform the public generally of the limitations that have been imposed on them to ensure that the COVID-19 pandemic is contained. As such, we have consistently advised both the public and those of our members in private practice that members must limit their in-person treatment to situations that the member determines, in the member's clinical judgment, are "urgent". We have also advised our members of the need to have in place appropriate infection control procedures and personal protective equipment to be able to provide a safe environment to treat any patient, whether the treatment is urgent or not. We have specifically advised that if they cannot, for any reason, maintain the infection control standards that have been approved by the College and which meet or exceed the standards that your office has directed, they must not open their offices. It is very important for you to understand that our members are now able to provide treatment to the public of Ontario in a safe and protective environment and as such the limitation of "essential" services or "urgent care" are no longer required.

To continue to fulfill our mandate to the public of Ontario and those patients who need care and treatment which may not be considered urgent, it is very important that our members be allowed to re-open their offices to provide a full range of treatment. The length of the restrictions are forcing more patient care to become urgent causing stress and risk to the public. Allowing members to re-open their offices and provide a full range of treatments is the only way we can assure Ontario patients that their foot care needs are properly dealt with to avoid more serious consequences. We would be pleased to share with you what we have done to date and to answer any questions you may have in order for you to have confidence that you can safely revise your directive respecting essential services as it relates to this profession.

Our College relies on its members to always do what is right in the circumstance. Until the announcement of May 14th regarding the Stage 1 (re-opening) it was relatively easy to explain to both the public and our members the need to keep private community-based offices closed to all but urgent care. Unfortunately, neither the public nor our members now understand the rationale that businesses that have no expertise

in infection control are being allowed to open while regulated health care providers remain significantly limited in their capacity to provide care to the public.

We thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Martin Hayles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped 'M' and 'H'.

**Martin Hayles, D.Pod.M., B.Sc. (Hons), M.Sc., FFPM RCPS (Glas).**  
Chiropodist  
President

Cc  
Ms. Christine Elliott  
Minister of Health & Deputy Premier

Mr. Kevin Taylor  
President  
Health Profession Regulators of Ontario

