

MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar

DATE: July 27, 2020

SUBJECT: 4.0 COVID-19 Report

- Remote Office
- Website FAQ Page
- COVID19 Guidelines
- Directory of Urgent Care Providers
- National Registration Examinations
- Collaboration Efforts
- Return to Practice Guidelines
- Return to Office Protocol

Remote Office

The College has been effectively operating remotely as of March 16, 2020 to mitigate the exposure of staff to the virus. New Board members continue to receive Zoom Meeting training as part of their on-boarding. While the provincial government is indicating the easing restrictions as it enters Phase III, in order to mitigate community transmission of the virus and safeguard the health of staff, the board and committee members, administration is intending on working remotely till the end of August.

Website FAQ Page

The College has been sending weekly updates to the registrants apprising them of important information during this pandemic. The information has been consolidated on a dedicated COVID-19 [FAQ page](#) for ease of access. The College's social media pages are also being updated accordingly.

COVID-19 Guidelines

To further guide registrants on the delivery of essential and urgent care, the Clinical Practice Committee met to develop COVID-19 specific practice guidelines regarding dispensing and infection control. Updates were made to guidance regarding Initial Contact Lens Fittings to keep in alignment with the College of Optometrists. As these updates were considered an urgent resource, they were brought to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

Directory of Urgent Care Providers

As our registrants have started returning to practice, the need for the Urgent Care Provider Directory has been discontinued as it is currently not necessary. The directory is still available in the event that there is a second wave of lockdown measures required by the province.

National Registration Examinations

Georgian College has informed us that they will not be able to accommodate any external requests for usage of their venue for the fall session of the exams. The Registration department is actively pursuing alternate venues to conduct the fall session. The College is considering the impact of social distancing measures that may still be in effect and any disinfection protocols and PPE requirements to maintain a safe exam session.

Collaboration Efforts

The College participates in daily COVID-19 updates from the Ministry of Health. These meetings typically focus on front-line health services. There have been several meetings with Ministry officials and the 26 members of HPRO as well. The focus of these meetings has been the coordination of volunteers and reviewing registration requirements for returning health practitioners during this period.

Return to Practice Guidelines

The College continues to monitor advice and direction from the province as well as frequently asked questions from the registrants. Accordingly, the [Return to Practice Guidelines](#) are continually being updated. Updates include information regarding first time contact lens fits as well as the usage of protective masks.

Return to Office Protocol

College administrative staff will be developing a plan to address space planning and disinfection control for the College office and board room spaces.

Fazal Khan, RO
Registrar, CEO