

MEMO

Date: May 5, 2020
To: Regulatory Body Alliance
From: **Lanette Siragusa**, Provincial Lead Health System Integration & Quality,
Chief Nursing Officer, Shared Health
Dr. Brent Roussin, Chief Provincial Public Health Officer

Re: COVID-19 – Guidance for Resumption of Services

In preparation for the gradual ramping up of health services that were reduced or postponed in response to COVID-19, some guidance is available for the reopening of clinics and/or resumption of services. Please review the following message from Lanette Siragusa and Dr. Perry Gray at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-memo-the-new-normal.pdf>. Please note that the gradual resumption of services will be done incrementally over time, and if COVID-19 cases increase then the ramp up may be slowed or reversed.

This message, and the “Guidance for Reopening Clinics” document <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-guidance-for-reopening-clinics.pdf> released last week, provide important guidance on issues such as staff and client self-screening, social distancing, single entry points, signage, hand sanitizer, cleaning between clients, etc.

Dr. Roussin has recently advised regulatory bodies that non-essential and elective health services in the community can be gradually resumed. Regulatory bodies are encouraged to establish requirements/guidelines for their respective professions that are consistent with those included in the documents referenced above.

Individuals within regulated professions who practice as a contractor or who are self-employed but offering service within the health system are also encouraged to seek the guidance of the health region(s) in which they work to confirm their services can resume (e.g. for those who may provide service within a PCH).

With respect to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), Shared Health has posted information that describes the PPE required in different clinical settings. Resources are available for you to review at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/providers/>. These requirements may change over time as new information and non-medical PPE alternatives become available.

Of particular interest to your members may be the guidance for outpatient settings available at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/ppe-provincial-requirements-outpatient-settings.pdf>. We recommend that you review these requirements and consider what is appropriate for providers in your particular profession that practice in a community setting. You may also want to consult with your colleagues in other provinces to consider what PPE they are requiring.

Virtual options continue to be encouraged wherever possible, both as we monitor the results of the gradual lifting of public health restrictions and as we continue to experience the same supply and distribution challenges in accessing PPE as the rest of the world. Providers are encouraged to source PPE through their usual suppliers/vendors wherever possible. Assistance through the Supply Chain portal (insert email) may be available to those providers who are unable to source PPE from elsewhere but it should be noted that PPE distribution is being managed according to risk and priority levels set out in the Provincial PPE Planning and Guidance Framework available at <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/files/covid-19-provincial-ppe-framework-guidance.pdf>.

Thank you for your ongoing support and understanding.