



MEMO

TO: Board of Directors

FROM: Fazal Khan, Registrar

DATE: May 11, 2020

SUBJECT: 3.0 COVID-19 Report

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- COVID19 Guidelines
- Directory of Urgent Care Providers
- Quality Assurance
- National Registration Examinations
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Remote Office

The College moved to remote operations as of March 16, 2020, in anticipation of the government closure of workplaces and to mitigate the exposure of staff to the virus. As mentioned in the Registrars Report, all functions have transitioned smoothly with committee and board meetings being held via webinar. While the provincial government is indicating the easing workplace restrictions within the next month, in order to mitigate community transmission of the virus and safeguard the health of staff, the board and committee members, administration is considering an extended period of remote operation over the summer period as there are typically fewer committee meetings.

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. As these guidelines were considered an urgent resource, they were brought to the Executive Committee for review and approval.

Directory of Urgent Care Providers

Members of the public have been contacting the College seeking assistance in locating opticians who are offering urgent and essential care during the pandemic. Patients have been looking for such care as the replacement of broken eyewear and disposable contact lens refills. To this end, the College in the span of one week, developed a search feature tied to the Member Portal to allow opticians to add themselves to the Urgent Care directory. Presently, there are 146 opticians listed.

Quality Assurance

The Quality Assurance Committee met to consider the impact of the pandemic on the QA Program. The Committee recommended:

- suspending all peer assessments
- extension on the submission of 2019 portfolios
- deferral of the Multi-source surveys until next year

Again, as this was considered urgent, these policy updates were sent to the Executive Committee for approval. These updates were approved and disseminated to the registrants.

National Registration Examinations

With the closure of physical spaces, including at Georgian College, the Spring session of the National Registration Examinations was cancelled. The intention is to process these candidates in 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

In anticipation of a phased return to practice by the provincial government, the College is gathering resources for the Clinical Practice Committee to develop Return to Practice Guidelines. The College has reached out to industry stakeholders to provide input into the development of these guidelines. These guidelines are expected to be ready by mid-May.

Fazal Khan, RO
Registrar, CEO