



COVID-19 | NSPA Update – March 18th, 2020

This is a challenging and unprecedented time, please know that the staff and board of the NSPA continue to work on behalf of the physiotherapy community in NS.

Firstly, it is important to address confusion around messages NSPA members received from the Canadian Physiotherapy Association and the Nova Scotia College of Physiotherapists (NSCP). As many of you know, the Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) has released a statement encouraging all physiotherapy clinics to consider closing, only providing essential treatment. Meanwhile, the NSCP followed up, informing physiotherapists in Nova Scotia that we, currently, do not have the directive from the Government of Nova Scotia to mandate a province wide closure.

As one can appreciate, the COVID-19 crisis varies from province to province. The suggestion put forth from CPA was aimed at addressing the crisis at a national level. While this may have been an accurate assessment of the situation in other parts of Canada, at this point, it is not the case in Nova Scotia.

Therefore, it is important that all Physiotherapists in Nova Scotia heed the advice of the NSCP and closely watch for recommendations from the Nova Scotia Government on how to proceed. That being said, physiotherapists maintain autonomy in their decision to limit hours, limit services being offered, or close entirely. We appreciate this is a difficult decision; however, each physiotherapists' situation is unique and needs to be addressed individually.

The most important thing is that regardless of the decision each physiotherapist makes regarding their willingness and ability to keep providing care, the NSPA is working to support all members. During the COVID-19 crisis the NSPA has been:

- In contact with WCB-NS and the office of the Superintendent of Insurance to update physiotherapists on the impacts of a quarantine or shutdown on current or new Compensation or motor vehicle claims
- Collecting resources from the Government of Canada, Government of Nova Scotia, and CPA to provide to Physiotherapists to help during this challenging time
- Working with the NSCP and Dalhousie University to address planning issues and provide updates regarding the 2020 Physiotherapy Forum
- In contact with NSCP to ensure that messages specifically regarding the province of Nova Scotia are united
- Keeping up to date with information from the Government of Nova Scotia

It is important to realize that our current situation changes, seemingly, hourly and what we write about today may be considered dated by tomorrow. With limited resources available from the NSPA, it is imperative that physiotherapists in Nova Scotia keep up to date with reliable resources and choose what is best for their practice, patients, staff, and families. We're all in this together.



Nova Scotia
Physiotherapy
Association

The following are links to some of these resources:

NSCP Statement on COVID-19

<https://nsphysio.com/about-us/news/2-uncategorised/535-nscp-statement-re-covid-19-march-17,-2020>

NS Government Website on COVID-19

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/>

Government of Canada website on COVID-19

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html>

CPA Resources for COVID-19 (Including Telehealth and webinars)

<https://physiotherapy.ca/covid-19>

Sincerely,

Stephen Richey, PT

President

Nova Scotia Physiotherapy