Looking for information specific to working in private practice, community settings or home care? We've compiled helpful information and resources, direction from the Ministry and frequently asked questions all in one comprehensive page.

Learn about:

What constitutes urgent care

Things to keep in mind when considering tele-rehabilitation

Use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in primary care settings And more

[**Get More Information**](https://www.collegept.org/registrants/coronavirus/private-practice-community-settings-and-home-care)

**Private Practice, Community Settings and Home Care: Information and Resources**

The Ontario government has issued emergency orders to help mitigate the spread of COVID- 19 in long-term care and retirement homes. These emergency orders directly impact health care workers including physiotherapists and physiotherapist assistants.

These orders include:

As of April 22, employees of long-term care and retirement homes may only work at one location

**Long-Term Care and Retirement Homes: Information and Resources**



**May 7, 2020 |** [**www.collegept.org**](http://www.collegept.org/) **|** [**info@collegept.org**](mailto:info@collegept.org)

**Extension of All Emergency Orders Until May 19, 2020**

On the advice of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, the Ontario government is extending all emergency orders until May 19, 2020.

*Note: The restrictions on physiotherapists to* ***only provide urgent care in-person*** *remains in place until May 19.* ***Virtual or tele-rehabilitation for non-urgent care is appropriate.***

As of April 15, all long-term care and retirement homes should require that all staff wear surgical/procedure masks at all times

Physiotherapists who work at long-term care and retirement homes are restricted to providing in person care only if it is deemed urgent

For additional resources, including Ontario's action plan to fight COVID-19 in long-term care and retirement homes, please visit our designated webpage.

**Hospitals: Information and Resources**

[**Get More Information**](https://www.collegept.org/registrants/coronavirus/long-term-care-and-retirement-homes)

On March 17, the Ontario Government declared a state of emergency and directed health care providers and organizations to limit services to essential care. Physiotherapists who are employed by hospitals are deemed an essential service and must take direction from their employers with respect to services provided.

We have pulled together resources, information, directives from the Ministry and frequently asked questions on one comprehensive page designed for PTs working in hospitals.

You will be able to access:

Current information from the Ministry

Details about the use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

Information about the possibility of being redeployed to a new position or asking to help with things outside the typical scope of physiotherapy

And more

[**Get More Information**](https://www.collegept.org/registrants/coronavirus/hospitals)

# Popular Practice Advice Question

**Question:** *What PPE is recommended for PTs providing care in the patient’s home, if the patient has screened negative for COVID-19?*

**Answer:** A PT must maintain current knowledge of infection prevention and control measures. During the ongoing pandemic the Ministry of Health has released updates in infection prevention and control.

Review this document from the Ministry of Health for more information:

[**Guidance - Home and Community Care**](https://www.collegept.org/docs/default-source/default-document-library/guidance---home-and-community-care_may4_final.pdf?sfvrsn=a2d5dba1_2) (Updated May 4, 2020)

Important measures to prevent introduction and spread of COVID-19 in and between patient homes:

Staff must follow current infection prevention and control guidelines for use of personal protective equipment (PPE) while in the home

All staff must be trained in putting on a mask outside of each patient's home and ***wearing a mask at all times for the duration of their visit in the home*** and discarding it afterward, and in properly assessing the need for additional PPE, putting it on, wearing and removing it to minimize contamination of themselves and the immediate environment

***Use of eye protection by staff*** (e.g., a face shield) for duration of their visit in the

patient's home should be strongly considered

All staff must use Droplet and Contact Precautions, in addition to Routine Practices, for all client contact and care, when the client (or someone in their home) is suspected or confirmed to be infected with COVID-19

**Feeling the Pressure? Reach Out for Help**

[**See Other FAQs**](https://www.collegept.org/registrants/practice-advice/covid-19-faqs)

Why not take some time and have a look at the Infection Control and Equipment Maintenance

Standard? As we deal with COVID-19 and consider how to eventually transition back into our workplaces in the future, best practices in infection control and equipment maintenance are going to be a priority.

Take a couple of minutes to review the standard and think about how any existing policies could evolve or improve.

[**Read the Standard**](https://www.collegept.org/rules-and-resources/infection-control-equipment-maintenance)

**Infection Control Refresher**

Research shows that front line workers are experiencing higher levels of fear, worry and uncertainty over the past few months.

If you or someone you know would benefit from speaking with someone or accessing free resources, visit our support web page to access mental health information for front line workers, patients, caregivers and others.

[**Where to Find Help**](https://www.collegept.org/patients/covid-19-mental-health-support)

The College is closely monitoring the return to work situation and will update PTs and others as soon as the government releases a detailed plan.

Until then, check out the following resources:

[**Ontario Government: Reopening After COVID-19**](https://www.ontario.ca/page/reopening-ontario-after-covid-19?_ga=2.91564890.1586813489.1588010616-725770887.1585136794)

[**Health and Safety Association: Guidance Documents for Workplaces During COVID-19**](https://www.news.ontario.ca/opo/en/2020/04/health-and-safety-association-guidance-documents-for-workplaces-during-the-covid-19-outbreak.html)

**Assistive Devices Program Update**

**Return to Work Update**

FYI – If you complete applications for the Assistive Devices Program, it is temporarily accepting applications through fax at 1-888-222-8018 only. Please do NOT mail applications this time.

[**Learn More**](https://www.collegept.org/patients/covid-19-information-for-patients/assistive-devices-program)

# Free Training and Resources for PTs (and Others!)



During these unprecedented times, many organizations are offering free online training or courses to help health care providers like physiotherapists maintain or upgrade their skills.

Whether you've been asked to do something you wouldn't normally do and want to brush up on your knowledge, or you simply want to use some downtime to expand your learning, consider taking advantage of this opportunity.

We've compiled a list of free online courses currently available to PTs so be sure to check it out.

## [Training and Resources](https://www.collegept.org/registrants/coronavirus/free-resources-and-training)

**Annual Renewal Reminder - June 30, 2020**

A friendly reminder that the 2020 - 2021 Annual Renewal deadline has been extended. All physiotherapists should complete their annual renewal by June 30, 2020.

## [Renew Now](https://www.collegept.org/registrants/annual-renewal-2020)

Comments or questions related to Perspectives?

Get in touch at [communications@collegept.org](mailto:communications@collegept.org) or 1-800-583-5885 ext. 234. [www.collegept.org](http://www.collegept.org/)