



*College of
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REGISTRAR
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Guidance document to Physicians: Re-open Saskatchewan Phase 2

We wish to thank all physicians who are involved in pandemic planning and still managing to provide the necessary care the patients in the province deserve. The expected date for the second phase of Reopen Saskatchewan is May 19 2020.

Details of the Re-Open Saskatchewan plan can be found on the [Saskatchewan Ministry Website](#).

Phase 2 of the plan in Saskatchewan involves the reopening of selected retail businesses, shopping malls, and selected personal services as detailed on the Saskatchewan Ministry [website](#).

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan guidance follows the advice and orders of the Saskatchewan [Chief Medical Health Officer](#), Dr. [Saqib Shahab](#).

Updated [information for physicians](#) is available on the Saskatchewan Ministry Website.

The College will rely on physicians to use their judgement in restarting services which were restricted. Even though certain services are allowed to be provided in phase 2, it does not mean that physicians should stop exercising due diligence in determining if the services are in the best interest of the patient and the population at large.

Virtual care should still be considered in circumstances where a physical examination is not needed, and we refer to the [CPSS guidance documents](#) for virtual care delivery.

As in our guidance document related to the [Reopening Saskatchewan Phase 1](#), the following questions should still be asked prior to initiating an in-person visit:

- Is an in-person visit necessary for the patient's health, and in the patient's and the physician's best interest?
- Would a delay in providing care for patients who have a chronic disease such as diabetes, coronary artery disease and COPD possibly result in a poor health outcome?
- Are you and your staff ready and prepared, and able to maintain safety, including PPE, within the office setting for patients, physicians and staff?
- Are you able to mitigate risks with adequate and robust screening policies and are these effectively communicated to patients?

Dr Kathy Lawrence, Provincial Head of Family Medicine, circulated a [memo](#) with guidelines for Community and Family Physicians to consider the reopening of clinics.

***To serve the public by regulating the practice of medicine
and guiding the profession to achieve the highest standards of care***

The College again refers to the [Code of Conduct](#), [Code of Ethics](#) and our guideline on [Physicians and Health Care Emergencies](#).

When considering re-opening previously restricted medical services during the re-opening process, the [Ministry guidelines](#) should be followed. In addition, physicians should be aware of the following, which should remain in place through all five phases:

- Maintain protective measures for vulnerable populations.
- Individuals should continue working from home if they can do so effectively.
- Physical distancing must be maintained, wherever possible.
- People must stay at home when they are sick.
- Vulnerable individuals, such as seniors and those with underlying health conditions, should continue to exercise caution and minimize high-risk exposures, such as public outings.
- Personal hygiene will continue to be a key prevention measure.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection should take place in workplaces, public spaces and recreational facilities.
- Although the public health order regarding the size of gatherings does not apply to businesses and workplaces, they are expected to follow the recommended public health measures, including:
 - physical distancing for staff and clients;
 - regular cleaning and disinfection;
 - frequent handwashing and sanitizing;
 - use of PPE where available and appropriate; and
 - Keeping staff who demonstrate or report COVID-19 symptoms out of the workplace.
- Long-term care and personal care homes must ensure that each staff member works in only one facility

The College is acutely aware of the outbreaks happening in the Northern part of our province and would encourage physicians to participate in contributing to the needs of these traditionally underserved communities. We are very thankful to the physicians participating in the response for service delivery to our Indigenous population.

Thank you again – the College and public owe a profound debt of gratitude to all our health professionals and everybody who will be on the front lines of this pandemic.

Sincerely,



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