



*College of
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Clarification to the Guidance to Physicians providing care to patients in private offices/clinics and the updated public health orders for vaccination and masking requirements.

The College was made aware that some physicians are unclear about the College's expectations after reading the guidance document circulated to physicians on February 18, 2022. This document is intended to provide further clarity.

The pandemic is not over. While the government has rescinded the Public Health orders pertaining to masking, physical distancing, limiting group size, etc. the College strongly encourages physicians to continue to require these health protection measures in physician offices.

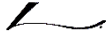
- The College supports, encourages, and promotes the ongoing use of health protection measures to protect against Covid-19, including:
 - Masking
 - Staying 6 feet apart
 - Handwashing
 - Establishing an expectation that staff will stay at home when they have symptoms consistent with Covid.
 - Establishing an expectation that patients will advise the clinic if they have symptoms consistent with Covid.
- We also strongly support promoting vaccination to your patients.
- The Code of Ethics and Professionalism and other College documents establish an expectation that physicians will provide continuity of care to their patients. The College expects that physicians will make appropriate arrangements for non-compliant patients to receive care.
- The College recommends that physicians make their patients aware of the clinic's policy on use of masks. The College recommends that physicians post signs at their office locations and that staff advise patients seeking an appointment of the office policy on the use of masks.
- If a clinic has a masking policy, and a patient refuses to wear a mask, the physician should still deal with the patient's medical needs. Physicians are able to decide how that will be achieved. Some possible suggestions to deliver care to non-compliant patients are:
 - Provide care virtually if the patient's condition is appropriate for virtual care.
 - Arrange a time when there are no other patients in the clinic (e.g. last appointment time of the day).

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

- Arrange to meet the patient at another appropriate location, such as the emergency department of the hospital.
- Arrange with another physician who does not have a masking policy to see the patient.

Physicians are reminded that they can [contact the College](#) when clarification or advice is required.

Sincerely,



Dr. Werner Oberholzer

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