

## 2020-03-18 COVID-19 Update

The CNPBC recognizes that this is a difficult and uncertain time in BC and, indeed, around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impacts pose challenges and difficulties to everyone – to patients, to the general public, and to healthcare professionals. Information emerges daily and we are endeavouring to make new information available on our website, as it is received and – importantly – verified by the appropriate agencies.

A number of registrants have asked the CNPBC for advice on suspending their practice. We recommend that naturopathic doctors postpone, cancel, or provide non-essential services via telemedicine, so long as these actions comply with applicable standards, including but not limited to the Telemedicine Standard (<http://www.cnpbc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Telemedicine.pdf>) as well as the Code of Conduct and Code of Ethics (<http://www.cnpbc.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/Code-of-Conduct-and-Code-of-Ethics-2018-10-16.pdf>). Naturopathic doctors are expected to apply sound judgment in determining which services are essential. We encourage you to carefully consider the risks of each potential patient interaction and its potential outcome.

Today's declaration of an emergency (<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/covid-19-bc-update-public-safety-minister-mike-farnworth-live-1.5501769>), as well as Ministry of Health announcements on March 16 and 17 concerning cancellations around acute care and elective surgeries, and increasing restrictions in long-term care, indicate an increased need for social distancing. The CNPBC is looking to public health principles and guidance provided by BC's Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, to inform our advice to registrants and the public.

We will provide further information as it becomes available and ask that you check your email regularly at this time in order to stay abreast of developments.

The CNPBC acknowledges the challenges that COVID-19 may pose to naturopathic doctors. We are committed to our mandate of serving and protecting the public. We thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to provide information to support you in navigating this pandemic.

Should you have questions that are not addressed on our website or in our communications, please send them to [office@cnpbc.ca](mailto:office@cnpbc.ca).