

2020-03-19 COVID-19 Update

The College is receiving a high volume of queries regarding whether or not naturopathic doctors have an obligation to suspend services and/or close their clinics at this time. The College does not have the statutory authority to make an order that all naturopathic doctors suspend services or close their clinics.

However, we strongly recommend that all naturopathic doctors suspend all elective and non-essential naturopathic services immediately.

The College recommends that appointments be cancelled, postponed, or provided by telemedicine in a manner consistent with the CNPBC's [Telemedicine Standard](#) and [Code of Conduct/Code of Ethics](#). **It is generally recommended that naturopathic doctors should not see patients for in-person visits at this time.** Exceptions should be rare and confined to situations in which a patient is at risk of imminent or serious harm and alternative care is unavailable.

During this rapidly evolving COVID-19 pandemic, the CNPBC expects registrants to conduct themselves ethically and safely and to recognize their professional obligation to exercise sound judgment and make prudent decisions regarding the provision of patient care.

Questions?

We acknowledge that these are extraordinary and stressful times, and we are committed to working with each of you to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to protect the public. As we are managing a high volume of queries, we ask that when you have a question, you send it either by voicemail or by email, but not both, and that you send your question one time, rather than repeatedly. We also ask that before posing a non-urgent question, you check that the CNPBC has not already answered it in an email to the profession or on the CNPBC website.

We thank you for your cooperation and patience as we work to provide information to support you in navigating this pandemic.