

November 10, 2020

Re: Urgent Masking Update

On November 9, 2020, the Ministry of Health published a [communication](#) to all Health Authorities regarding the use of masks in Health Care Facilities. This afternoon, the College received clarification from the Ministry of Health that the communication **does not** apply to naturopathic doctors. However, the College does recommend that all registrants, clinic staff and patients wear a mask (medical or non-medical) in all clinics that provide naturopathic medical services.

Public Health Order: Lower Mainland and Fraser Valley Restrictions issued on November 7, 2020

BC's Public Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry, issued a new public health [order](#) stating that individuals, places of work and businesses in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley specifically must significantly reduce their level of social interactions and travel. As of time of writing, this order remains in effect until noon on November 23, 2020.

Social Gatherings

The delivery of care in the homes of patients and clients, or in private sector practices, **does not** constitute a "social gathering". Registrants who provide care to patients and clients in these settings are expected to continue as they did prior to the issuance of this new order.

Workplace Safety

All registrants must review and rigorously follow their COVID-19 safety plan at clinics, to ensure that all employees and patients maintain appropriate physical distancing and wear masks when appropriate. Registrants should ensure that their COVID-19 safety plan is appropriate for small office spaces, break rooms, kitchens and treatment rooms. Clinics should have a daily patient screening in place as part of the COVID-19 safety plan to keep staff and patients safe.

Regards,

Howard Greenstein
Registrar and CEO