

**From:** CASLPO <caslpo@caslpo.com>

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**Subject:** Two Important Updates – Redeployment and Changes to MOH Directive #2 for Health Care Providers



College of Audiologists and  
Speech-Language Pathologists of Ontario  
Ordre des audiologistes et  
des orthophonistes de l'Ontario

April 27, 2021

**To:** All CASLPO Registrants (Please share with CASLPO colleagues)

**Two Important updates from Ontario's Acting Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Health.**

**Changes to MOH Directive #2 for Health Care Providers:**

To preserve health system capacity in Ontario's hospitals during the third wave of COVID-19, the province has updated **Directive #2**. All non-emergency and non-urgent surgeries and procedures should be ceased, effective immediately.

The MOH has provided a [Q and A document to accompany the changes to Directive #2](#) which includes a definition of "procedure":

"It requires surgical nursing support or anaesthetic support or carries a risk of resulting in the use of emergency medical services or other hospital services due to serious intra-operative or post-operative complications."

**The re-issuing of Directive #2 does not impact Audiologists and SLPs providing in-person services in the community.**

Directive #2 reminds all health care providers to continue to consider which services can be provided virtually and which services can safely be provided in-person with appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Please refer to [CASLPO's pandemic practice advisories](#), and the [Standards For Virtual Care in Ontario](#) as you provide care to Ontarians.

**Providing Patient Care Outside of Scope of Practice:**

The College has received a memo from the Ministry of Health providing information on new directives in effect in Ontario. The new regulation is available to read here: [Ontario Regulation 305/21 Regulated Health](#)

Professionals, made under the Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990.

A new order under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act, 1990* (EMCPA) authorizes health care professionals, **including audiologists and speech-language pathologists, to provide patient care services outside their regular scope of practice** and enables hospitals to employ, contract, appoint or otherwise engage regulated health professionals from out-of-province. **Also, staff providing health and home and community support services** (otherwise known as Local Health Integration Networks) **can be redeployed to provide service in hospitals.**

The College has an [FAQ on Redeployment and COVID-19](#) (April 14, 2020), which addresses requests for audiologists and speech-language pathologists to work out of their scope of practice.

These are challenging times for audiologists and speech-language pathologists in Ontario. The College acknowledges and thanks you for your commitment to providing quality health care in an ever-changing environment. If you have questions about [CASLPO's standards](#) and how they relate to redeployment, please contact the [Practice Advice Team](#).

As we work together in addressing COVID-19, we are here to help the public and you, our registrants.

**Stay Safe. Stay Healthy!**

**Brian O'Riordan**  
Registrar

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