

From: CASLPO <caslpo@caslpo.com>
Sent: March 24, 2020 3:01 PM
Subject: Coronavirus Update: March 24, 2020



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

March 24, 2020

To: All CASLPO Registrants

Yesterday, March 23, the Ontario government announced that they will be closing at-risk workplaces to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Early today, March 24, the Office of the Premier issued a [List of Essential Workplaces](#). Please review this list carefully.

Essentially, no health care services are being closed (please see "**Health Care and Seniors Care and Social Services, # 48-60**" specifically identified within the list). Although any regulated health professional's workspace will most likely fall under this category, you must still carefully determine what services, within your practice, are essential and what are non-essential.

Please, work with your employers to determine which patients must be seen directly, which patients can be served via telepractice and if a patient's intervention can be delayed. These decisions should always be in line with the Ministry's statement regarding exemptions to ceasing non-essential services which are described as,

"time sensitive circumstances to avert or avoid negative patient outcomes or to avert or avoid a situation that would have a direct impact on the safety of patients".

Please read carefully CASLPO's communication sent to all registrants on [March 20](#), which provides further elaboration on this definition.

There will be patient scenarios that are not clear cut. In these circumstances you must consider the risks and benefits for each patient, and weigh the risk of spreading the virus to the community at large.

We understand that as health care professionals in a health care emergency, you are experiencing considerable challenges. Government has decided that health care must continue to be provided across the province. However, it must be done in ways that protect your patients and yourselves. The College is here to support you. We will keep you informed of developments you need to know about. However, keep yourself knowledgeable about all official and authoritative sources. Reach out to us when needed.

We are in this together. We will get through this together.

If you have questions, please contact us at: [Practice Advice Team](#)

Brian O'Riordan
Registrar

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