



College of  
TRADITIONAL  
CHINESE MEDICINE  
PRACTITIONERS +  
ACUPUNCTURISTS  
of British Columbia

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## **Communication to Registrants Regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

**Date: March 10 , 2020**

The College last provided information in January 2020 when the Coronavirus (COVID-19) had been declared by the **World Health Organization (WHO)** as a “global health emergency”.

On a more local level, Adrian Dix, Minister of Health, and Dr. Bonnie Henry, BC’s provincial health officer stated in their March 7 and March 9 **updates** that there was an outbreak of COVID-19 at a long-term care facility in North Vancouver. This health situation is changing, and the College would like to provide some resources to help registrants stay informed and be prepared:

1. Resource websites to get reliable and up-to-date information about Coronavirus (COVID-19)
2. Infection control measures & risk management at Registrants’ practices
3. Patients’ rights & practitioners’ responsibilities
  - Practice within own limits
  - Fees / ethical billing
  - Consent on Treatments
  - Advertising and marketing standards

### ***Please note:***

*If you are seeking consultation or have further questions about novel coronavirus as a health care provider or facility, contact your local public health unit. Information is available at:*

*<http://www.bccdc.ca/contact>*

*Public Health Agency of Canada’s Coronavirus (COVID-19) Information Line: 1-833-784-4397*

*Anyone concerned that they may have been exposed to, or who are experiencing symptoms of the Novel Coronavirus, should contact their primary care provider, local public health office, or call HealthLink at 8-1-1. HealthLink 8-1-1 offers translation services in 130 languages and is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.*

*If you or someone in your care has chest pains, difficulty breathing, or severe bleeding, it could be a life-threatening emergency. Call 9-1-1 or the local emergency number immediately.*

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## **1. Resource websites for reliable and up-to-date information about Coronavirus (COVID-19)**

### **Resources for British Columbia - BC Centre for Disease Control ([www.bccdc.ca](http://www.bccdc.ca))**

Registrants and the public can find up-to-date information related to the Novel Coronavirus on the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) website. The website provides daily updates on the status of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in BC.

<http://www.bccdc.ca/about/news-stories/stories/2020/information-on-novel-coronavirus>

Health care professionals and public health partners can also find information suited to their needs on the BCCDC website:

[http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/coronavirus-\(novel\)](http://www.bccdc.ca/health-professionals/clinical-resources/coronavirus-(novel))

The website provides downloadable posters which can be printed to put up in health care clinics and reception areas. They are available in **English**, **Farsi**, **simplified Chinese**, **traditional Chinese**, and **Punjabi**.

Questions about communicable diseases, environmental health and other public health issues should be directed to the regional health authority in your area:

- Fraser Health
  - For public: 604-587-3936
  - Health professionals: 1-866-990-9941
  
- Interior Health
  - For public: local health centre
  - Health professionals: 1-866-778-7736
  
- Island Health
  - South Island: 1-866-665-6626
  - North Island: 1-866-770-7798
  
- Northern Health: 250-565-2990
  
- Vancouver Coastal Health: 604-675-3900
  - <http://www.vch.ca/about-us/news/vancouver-coastal-health-statement-on-coronavirus>

### **Resources for Canada - Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)**

The PHAC website provides Coronavirus (COVID-19) updates and information from Health Canada including excellent downloadable information sheets and infographics.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/awareness-resources.html>

PHAC has also developed interim guidance for health professionals regarding recommended infection prevention and control measures for acute health settings:

<https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/health-professionals/interim-guidance-acute-healthcare-settings.html>

*Note: Self-study of these resources are activities can be counted for continuing education hours in Category B of the Continuing Competency Program.*

## **2. Infection control measures & risk management at Registrants' practices**

Registrants may find reviewing relevant sections in the College's Safety Program Handbook ([English](#) | [Simplified Chinese](#) | [Traditional Chinese](#)) helpful in ensuring that recommended infection measures and risk management protocols are adopted at their practices. Registrants should pay attention to these two sections in the handbook:

### ***Section 2: Infection Prevention and Control***

#### *2.3 Routine Practices*

##### *2.3.1 Conducting Risk Assessment*

##### *2.3.2 Hand Hygiene*

##### *2.3.3 Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)*

#### *2.4 Additional Precautions*

##### *2.4.1 Patient Management*

##### *Droplet Transmission Precautions*

#### *2.5 Clean Environment, Clean Equipment*

##### *2.5.1 Environment Cleaning*

##### *2.5.2 Cleaning, Disinfecting and Sterilizing*

#### *2.6 Safety Responsibilities of Practitioners and Staff*

##### *2.6.3 Illness and Work Restrictions*

### ***Section 3: Risk Management of TCM Practice***

#### *3.4 Risk Management: Emergencies*

#### *3.7 Risk Management: Patients and Their Records*

#### *3.8 Patient Privacy and Duties to Report*

Registrants may also find information in the following two Practice Standards helpful:

[Communicable Diseases: Preventing Practitioner-to-Patient Transmission](#)

[Clinical Record Keeping](#)

*Note: Self-study of these resources are activities can be counted for continuing education hours in Category B of the Continuing Competency Program.*

### **3. Patients' Rights & Practitioners' Responsibilities**

Relevant resources for specific practice-related topics:

#### **Practice Within Own Limits**

Registrants may find that reviewing Schedule A: Code of Ethics for Registrants and Schedule B: Standards of Practice for Registrants in the **College's Bylaws** very relevant to them when making professional decisions. Registrants are reminded that they are not public health and infectious disease experts, should practise within their own limits and know when to refer.

*Registrants (must) seek additional information or knowledge and refer the client to another health care provider in accordance with the requirements of the regulation, or when aspects of the care required are beyond their level of competence. (Statement 1(a)(iii), Code of Ethics for Registrants)*

#### **Fees / Ethical Billing**

Registrants are reminded not to take advantage of the vulnerabilities of their patients. Billings should be ethical, fair, honest and reasonable. Relevant information can be found in both the Code of Ethics for Registrants and Section 2E of the Jurisprudence Handbook. Registrants should also be aware of the information in Section 3C(vi) of the Jurisprudence Handbook regarding conflict of interest.

#### **Consent on Treatment**

*Registrants (must) fully inform their clients about the effects and risks of treatment, and of the scope and limitations they are entitled to practise. Registrants should ensure that care is authorized by informed consent and practice within relevant law governing consent and choice. (Statements 2(a)(i) and (ii) of the Standards of Practice for Registrants)*

#### **Advertising and Marketing Standards**

Section 3C(iv) of the Jurisprudence Handbook and s. 92 of the College Bylaws provide information in this topic:

*The purpose of advertising should be to provide relevant information to the public in order for them to make informed choices in regards to their health care needs. However, advertising must not be dishonest, misleading or irresponsible... .. Advertising should be factual, accurate, objectively verifiable, independent of personal opinion, comprehensible and professionally appropriate.*

*Note: Self-study of these resources are activities can be counted for continuing education hours in Category B of the Continuing Competency Program. Some may also meet the requirement for the minimum of 4 hours of study on ethical practice.*