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April 21, 2020

RE: COVID-19: Important update from the registrar

Dear registrant,

On March 23, 2020, Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry issued an update addressed to all regulated health professionals in BC. Health professionals were asked to limit delivery of in-person services in community settings and this message remains current, despite the recent discussion of lifting some of these measures at a future date.

To be clear, the message from the Provincial Health Office continues to be that "all non-essential and elective services involving direct physical contact with patients should be reduced to minimal levels, subject to allowable exceptions, until further notice." Regulated health professionals are encouraged to provide services via telehealth where possible.

Timelines of when non-urgent in-person care can resume remain unknown. This direction will be provided by the provincial health officer at the appropriate time. Meanwhile, please stay the course, limit in-person care to patients who require it urgently that cannot be delivered via telehealth, and continue to consult the College website and the BCCDC website for up-to-date information.

Thank you for all that you are doing to ensure BC patients are cared for during this challenging time.

Heidi M. Oetter, MD
Registrar and CEO