

CORRECTIONAL SERVICE CANADA

CHANGING LIVES. PROTECTING CANADIANS.



SERVICE CORRECTIONNEL CANADA

TRANSFORMONS DES VIES. PROTÉGEONS LES CANADIENS.

2020-07-09

## Interim Modifications to Physiotherapy Services

In addition to existing infection prevention and control (IPC) measures implemented to ensure the safe delivery of physiotherapy services in CSC, the following are interim modifications to physiotherapy practice in the context of COVID-19. Physiotherapy contractors providing any in-person care amidst the COVID-19 pandemic must also adhere to the direction of provincial public health, and their governing college to promote their safety, as well as the safety of CSC's patients and staff.

### General Infection Prevention and Control Measures

- Ensure the availability of 60-90% alcohol based hand rub<sup>1</sup> or other hand sanitizer approved by Health Canada for COVID-19<sup>2</sup> at entrance and throughout the office.
- The physiotherapy room should be decluttered as much as possible (this includes removing any non-physiotherapy equipment or supplies stored in the physiotherapy room, computers, etc.)
- Limit the number of staff in the workplace and maintain physical distancing of 2m from others.
- Ensure appropriate signage is posted in common areas, including topics such as hand washing, respiratory hygiene, and physical distancing (See CSC Posters and Resources and Wash Your Hands for signage).
- All staff, including physiotherapy staff, should be screened by operations for symptoms of COVID-19 upon entering the institution. Physiotherapy staff should not attend work if feeling unwell.

### Personal Protective Equipment

- Physiotherapists are required to wear medical/procedural masks when treating patients<sup>3</sup>. Other PPE, including eye protection, gowns, and gloves, will be available to use based on a point-of-care risk assessment.
- Patients are required to wear non-medical masks.
- CSC staff and contract physiotherapy providers must be trained in personal IPC practices including donning and doffing PPE ([COVID-19 Update: Guidance on the Use of Non-Medical Masks and Personal Protective Equipment](#)).
- Please see [COVID-19 Update: Guidance on the Use of Non-Medical Masks and Personal Protective Equipment](#) for PPE guidance that staff and contractors must adhere to while in CSC

<sup>1</sup> **Public Health Agency of Canada (2020)**. Infection prevention and control for COVID-19: Interim guidance for long term care homes. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/prevent-control-covid-19-long-term-care-homes.html>

<sup>2</sup> **Public Health Agency of Canada (2020)**. Hard-surface disinfectants and hand sanitizers (COVID-19): List of hand sanitizers authorized by Health Canada. Retrieved from: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/disinfectants/covid-19/hand-sanitizer.html>

<sup>3</sup> **College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (2020)**. COVID-19 Guidance: Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting. Retrieved from: [http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019\\_primary\\_care\\_guidance.pdf](http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/pro/programs/publichealth/coronavirus/docs/2019_primary_care_guidance.pdf)



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institutions, which includes universal masking protocols to be followed at all times and performing hand hygiene between each patient.

### Cleaning

- Physiotherapy contractors to clean and disinfect any surface area the patient may have come in contact with and all patient care items (exercise equipment, reflex hammer, etc.) between each patient. Then perform hand hygiene.
- Cleaning and disinfection must be undertaken using appropriate hospital-grade low-level disinfectants that are registered in Canada with a Drug Identification Number (DIN) and labelled as effective for both enveloped and non-enveloped viruses.
- All cloth linens must be laundered after each patient. Staff handling dirty laundry should wear gloves.

### Patient Flow

- Physiotherapy contractors should perform a point-of-care risk assessment for all patients prior to commencing the appointment to determine if the patient is experiencing symptoms (see [COVID-19 Update: Guidance on the Use of Non-Medical Masks and Personal Protective Equipment](#) for more information about this assessment), including a temperature measurement (recorded in OHIS-OMS).
  - If the patient is experiencing symptoms or has a temperature above 38°C, the appointment should be rescheduled to a later date (at least 14 days later) if possible. Refer to [COVID-19 Patient Journey: Algorithm for Symptomatic Inmates](#).
  - If a patient that is experiencing symptoms or has a temperature above 38°C requires urgent/emergency attention, the physiotherapist may use their clinical judgement to decide whether or not to proceed with the appointment.
    - When providing essential physiotherapy to a suspected or known COVID-19 case, the physiotherapist is required to wear a medical/procedural mask, gown, eye protection, and gloves<sup>4</sup>.
- Prior to leaving the appointment, patients should be instructed to monitor for symptoms and notify Health Services if symptoms develop within the 14 day period after the appointment. Health Services staff must follow the [COVID-19 Patient Journey: Algorithm for Symptomatic Inmates](#) and notify the physiotherapist involved in the appointment.
- Consider scheduling more vulnerable patients (older, those with underlying medical conditions, etc.) at the beginning of the day, first after lunch or on a separate day.
- Physiotherapists should treat only one patient at a time (1:1 ratio)<sup>5</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> College of Physiotherapists of Ontario (2020). COVID-19 (Coronavirus) FAQs. Retrieved from: <https://www.collegept.org/registrants/practice-advice/covid-19-faqs>

<sup>5</sup> Saskatchewan College of Physiotherapists (2020). Opening of Physiotherapy Clinics under the Provincial Government's Re-Open Saskatchewan Plan. Retrieved from: <https://scpt.in1touch.org/uploaded/web/Updated%20SCPT%20Practice%20Guideline%20for%20Re-Opening%20May%2029,%202020.pdf>