



Canadian
Physiotherapy
Association

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Canadian Physiotherapy Professionals Ready to Deploy to Support Health Care System During COVID-19 Crisis

The Canadian Physiotherapy Association (CPA) recognizes there is a need to maximize the efficiency of the health care system during the COVID-19 crisis. The physiotherapy profession has been working side by side with doctors, nurses, and other health professionals for over 100 years. We can support the Canadian health system by redeploying our skilled assets to support the needs of the system during this crisis. As regulated health professionals, physiotherapy professionals can work in many roles to alleviate stress on the Canadian health system and we have the knowledge and know how to work with other health professionals in acute care settings in a variety of capacities to help with the country's response. We are here, ready, willing, and able to support the efforts of the Government in managing this crisis and ensure Canadians are in receipt of the best care possible that permits them to return to their families, jobs (eventually), and society at large. The process of redeploying physiotherapy professionals in a few provinces has already begun. Hopefully, this can become a national effort that will benefit many Canadians with not only COVID-related conditions, but those other health conditions that are still going to be a part of the Canadian health care landscape.

Physiotherapy professionals are regulated, trained, and able to respond in many areas including:

- Respiratory Physiotherapy Care - urgent (e.g. ICU) respiratory physiotherapy has been shown to increase efficiency on a ventilator and in some cases promote faster recovery.
- Post-traumatic Injuries: traffic collisions, falls, and fractures will continue to occur and many patients will require hospitalization and physical rehabilitation in order to return home and free up that hospital bed.
- Neurological Conditions: strokes, brain injury, spinal cord injury, and progressive neurological conditions will persist and rehabilitation will be required to enable these patients to leave hospitals.
- Assess Readiness for Discharge: physiotherapists can assess patients for readiness to return home by evaluating a patient's ability to safely function in the home environment (e.g., ability to perform transfers, manage stairs, activities of daily living, etc). This can help free up hospital beds.
- **In the immediate instance, and to support all governments in their efforts to contain, control, and treat COVID-19, physiotherapy professionals are poised and ready to help however we can. We can work in general settings for COVID-19 testing, data collection, and follow up – an area where many provinces are struggling with staffing. Many physiotherapy professionals who normally work in communities are presently underemployed and would be willing to serve Canadians in a variety of capacities where needed.**

We are willing to mobilize our health professionals in service of the needs of the health system as quickly as possible. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

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