

CASLPM (COVID–19) Bulletin # 2

The College recognizes that the COVID-19 situation is unprecedented, uncertain and challenging for the public, patients and registrants. Along with other regulatory colleagues in Manitoba and across Canada, CASLPM staff is keeping up to date on emerging news about COVID-19 and making information available to registrants, either through broadcast email or on our website.

The College does not have the legal authority to mandate practice closures or direct Audiologists and/or Speech – Language Pathologists to cease practice. Rather, the College is looking to public health principles and guidance provided by Manitoba’s Provincial Health Office, Shared Health and Manitoba Health Seniors and Active Living, to inform our registrants and the public.

CASLPM is not a source of information for clinical guidance but we can offer the following. If you opt to use technology to conduct clinical assessments and interviews and interventions, please be reminded that all the requirements related to privacy, confidentiality, consent, and documentation are of critical importance. Remote technology is simply a tool.

That being said, in accordance with the College's mandate to act in the public interest, and in response to the needs of patients and registrants, CASLPM strongly recommends registrants suspend services if:

1. They are non-emergent or,
2. The federal or provincial governments indicate that you must do so.

If you must provide services, we strongly recommend you institute the following practices:

1. Pre-arrival screening to ensure your patients are not exhibiting signs of illness
2. Reduce the number of patients (or family) gathering in the waiting room
3. Remove reading materials and toys from the waiting area
4. Provide hand sanitation and masks
5. Increase cleaning of all surfaces
6. Use personal protective equipment
7. Wash hands throughout patient interactions and between patients. We recommend referring to the Public Health Agency of Canada [“Hand Hygiene Practices in Healthcare Settings”](#) for more information.

For additional information about clean and disinfecting in health care settings, please consult the [“Routine Practices and Additional Precautions for Preventing the Transmission of Infection in Healthcare Settings”](#) published by the Government of Canada.

Please note that all registrants are required to comply with the CASLPM RHPA Legislation, Code of Ethics, General Regulation, Practice Directions, and By-Laws.