



In April, the Ministry of Health (MOH) issued a [news release](#) stating that current public health measures, including mandatory masking, will stay in effect until **June 11, 2022**. After June 11, the MOH will issue guidance on personal protective equipment recommendations for infection prevention and control in health care settings. We will continue to share updated information as it becomes available.

When mandatory masking is removed, the College expects that some patients may wish to remain masked, some may want their chiropodist/podiatrist to be masked, and some members may request that a patient wear a mask.

Members are expected to use their professional judgement in determining if it is appropriate to continue to have a masking policy beyond June 11, 2022, in order to minimize the risk of infection. Members who choose to continue with a COVID-19 masking policy, should communicate this to patients prior to their appointment. Be prepared to have respectful discussions with patients to explain why the policy is in place, and to discuss alternative arrangements you can offer if a patient does not wish to wear a mask. Examples of alternative arrangements include attending in a separate room or at specific hours or referral to another clinic that can accommodate alternative arrangements suitable to the patient. Please bear in mind you cannot refuse care on the basis of masking.

Risk assessment, careful communication, respect, and professional judgement should continue to guide members' decisions on treatment and the use of personal protective equipment. Members are encouraged to review the Infection Control Standard for acceptable infection prevention and control measures, relevant to their clinical setting.

We await further direction with respect to screening of patients. Until such time, we advise that members continue to screen for risk of infection. Members should continue to perform a point of care risk assessment before providing in-person care (see Recommended Risk Assessments in this [Public Health Ontario Guidance Document](#)). Consider rates of infection in your community, the vulnerability of populations attending the setting, risks associated with the care environment, and other relevant factors.