

PUBLIC FAQ

Q: I'd like to pick up my orthotics. I was scheduled to have them fitted to my feet and my appointment was cancelled due to COVID-19. Couldn't I pick them up outside the door or have them shipped to me?

A: Custom made foot orthoses (orthotics) are a medical device. As such, Chiropodists/Podiatrists must follow certain standards of practice with regards to those devices. This includes the necessity to fit the devices directly to your feet and into your shoes. In addition the fitting and dispensing of orthotics would not be permitted while the Provinces is limiting which businesses can be open unless there was, in the Chiropodist/Podiatrist view, an urgent care need. This action would be impossible to carry out due to the Government's directive. Unfortunately, you therefore cannot access your orthotics, or pick them up, at this time.

MEMBER FAQ

Q: I am unclear about why the College is STRONGLY RECOMMENDING the use of Droplet and Contact precautions, by Chiropodists /Podiatrists for all patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A: The College understands that PPE and infection control products are in short supply but currently it does strongly recommend the use of Droplet and Contact precautions. Evidence is mounting community-based spread of COVID9 is occurring, with a number of those infected with COVID-19 being asymptomatic. Consequently, you should consider every patient as one who has potentially been exposed to the COVID-19 virus. Currently, members are responsible to ensure that to **EVERY** extent possible there is no transmission of the virus from their offices. It is for that very reason that members should only be treating patients in need of urgent care. The position of the College is a carefully considered one, having regard for the protection of the public, your patients, your staff and you.

Q I saw in the Essential List that that companies that provide mobility aids, are considered essential. Are Chiropodists and Podiatrist covered by this provision as many Chiropodists /Podiatrists do offer this such as, foot bracing, orthotics and footwear. I would like clarification on this because this is not addressed at all.

A: The list of essential businesses includes several paragraphs, including 37 and 38. They define essential business to include:

- 37. Businesses that sell, rent or repair assistive/mobility/medical devices, aids and/or supplies
- 38. Regulated health professionals (**urgent care only**) including dentists, optometrists, chiropractic services, ophthalmologists, physical and occupational therapists and podiatrists.

Our members are specifically referred to under paragraph 38 and are only entitled to continue to open their offices to see patients in need of urgent care

Q: Some of our clients are essential healthcare workers that are now on their feet more than ever. If their foot problem is not treated it will prevent them from being able to work, can I treat them?

A: In the College's view, urgent care would include treatment for patients who are essential healthcare workers who require the care to continue to perform their jobs.

Q: I am unclear about the use of N95 respirators by Chiropodists/Podiatrists during the COVID-19 Pandemic, since they are mentioned in the College Infection Prevention and Control Standard. I am unable to obtain them at present due to the global shortage.

A: N95 respirators are recommended in the College IPAC Standard for NAIL FILING with equipment that is not equipped with suction or water spray <http://www.cocoo.on.ca/pdf/standards/standard-infection.pdf> **If you do not have N95 respirators, you should not be performing that practice.**

The PHO currently only requires the use of N95 respirators when caring for suspect or confirmed COVID 19 patients during **Aerosol Generating Medical Procedures** including *Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, Open airway suctioning, High flow oxygen therapy* <https://www.publichealthontario.ca/-/media/documents/ncov/updated-ipac-measures-covid-19.pdf?la=en>