



Health Profession Regulators of Ontario (HPRO)
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May 5, 2020

Dr. David Williams, Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Ministry of Health (MOH)
21st Flr, 393 University Ave
Toronto ON M5G 2M2 Transmitted by email: dr.david.williams@ontario.ca

Dear Dr. Williams:

Re: Plans for Infection Control Guidance/Practitioners Returning to Work

I am writing to you again on behalf of the Health Profession Regulators of Ontario (HPRO), the organization that brings together the expertise of 26 regulated health professions' Colleges. Colleges continue to prepare for their registrants returning to practice, and, as I mentioned in my last letter to you, infection control guidelines and other measures relating to stopping the spread of COVID-19 are top priorities for HPRO.

We understand that a number of provinces are taking different approaches. [Saskatchewan's guidelines for medical professionals](#) is one example, with additional services having restarted on May 4th. Additionally, Alberta has required regulators to publish new guidelines for reopened services. The work being done by individual regulators in Ontario will need to be consistent with anything being directed by your office or other provincial authorities, and it is essential that regulators be given adequate notice to harmonize their work with any guidance from the provincial government. We would like to know if plans are being considered for government to provide specific guidance to healthcare professionals related to infection control.

We would also like to raise the issue of the availability of PPE for registrants returning to work. We all want to avoid scenarios where practices cannot return to work due to lack of PPE. While regulators do not advocate for professions' needs, we do need to be mindful that requirements for healthcare professionals are able to be achieved in actual practice and they must be balanced with public and personal safety.

As I shared in my letter on April 23rd, I reiterate our thanks and appreciation to you and your team during this challenging time.

Most sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Taylor', is written over a white background.

Kevin Taylor
President

cc. Clint Shingler, Director Health System Emergency Management Branch, MOH
Allison Henry, Director, Health Workforce Regulatory Oversight Branch, MOH
HPRO Board of Directors
Richard Steinecke, Legal Counsel