

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** All Health PEI Physicians  
**FROM:** Dr. André Celliers, Executive Director of Medical Affairs  
**DATE:** April 8, 2020  
**SUBJECT:** COVID-19 Update: Message to All Physicians

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Dear Colleagues

I understand there were some questions raised this weekend regarding the roles/scope of physicians and other clinicians working with this COVID-19 pandemic.

Understandably, people have questions about the unknown - about what may or may not happen as the pandemic wears on. We are not alone. Physicians across the country and in fact around the world are posing similar questions.

I want to reassure all our clinicians that Health PEI and the Joint Response Team (JRT) understand the vulnerability both professionally and personally everyone is facing during the pandemic.

Health PEI does get it. We do understand that all clinicians - physicians, nursing and others - are all being asked to be flexible and work in situations where they may not have traditionally worked. Clinicians are responding in a positive and generous way. I do wish to reiterate one very critical point - no one is being asked to work outside of their competency. It has been described that at the point of deployment (or re-deployment as the case may be), all clinicians will have the opportunity to discuss their level of comfort; their competency to practice; and their concerns. This can only realistically be done at that time because at this point - we do not know where people may be deployed.

I understand that medical negligence is a concern (specifically regarding ventilation).

**[The CMPA has indicated the following \(from their website\):](#)**

**Will the CMPA assist me with potential medical-legal difficulties that may arise from care I provide during this pandemic?**

***The CMPA will continue to provide members with liability protection for medical-legal difficulties arising as a result of care provided in Canada in the context of the COVID-19 efforts.***

**Are there any steps I should take during this pandemic to mitigate medical-legal risk?**

***As always, members should document their rationale for decisions under crisis situations to assist in the event of medical-legal difficulties.***

Physicians across the country are seeking an ethical framework to help guide decisions and to date - we do not have such a guideline. We will continue to work with our colleagues to address these concerns in the most timely way possible.

I encourage you all to continue to share your concerns with one another and with me. I appreciate the opportunity to provide support when and where possible. Thank you again for all your hard work.