

## SPECIAL EDITION - COVID -19

On March 11th, 2020 the World Health Organization officially declared the outbreak of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) to be a pandemic. Since that time, measures and policies have been put in place that have impacted the lives of all Newfoundlanders and Labradorians, most notably, Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners. Since learning of COVID-19 in early January, the College has been monitoring the situation daily, across all divisions and offering steadfast support to our public health officials. The following are some of the actions the College has been overseeing:

- As not to disrupt the continuity of the public health care system during these unprecedented times, CRNNL promptly began a mass communications effort imploring all practising RNs to renew their license for 2020-21 year.
- CRNNL immediately made recommendations to the provincial government to change regulations to enable the College to rapidly license a pool of additional RNs (outside of those currently practising) to alleviate any future congestion in our health care system.
- On March 23rd, 2020 the College realigned its operations to focus on supporting the efforts in dealing with the pandemic. The majority of College personnel are currently working remotely. On-site personnel have been distanced and are fielding calls related to licensing and registration.
- CRNNL has a dedicated webpage specific to RN & NP practice during the COVID-19 pandemic which provides up-to-date information and FAQs. This web resource can be found on CRNNL's webpage by [clicking here](#).
- **The Government of Newfoundland and Labrador recently enacted changes to provincial regulations to ensure consistency and continuity in the provincial health care system. Effective March 27th, 2020 all eligible retired and non-**

**practicing nurses who are interested in offering their services are encouraged to email [emergencylicence@crnnl.ca](mailto:emergencylicence@crnnl.ca) or [click here](#) for more information.**

- This situation is unfolding provincially, nationally and globally at a rapid pace. While the focus of the College has shifted to ensure we are making every possible effort to support our people and our province, we maintain dedicated to the mandate of our organization. We have received new allegations and Professional Conduct Review is not completely halted rather being screened and determining priority settings while being flexible and cautiously continuing with any investigation proceedings based on the impact of nurses in the system. Practice supports are available, and the registration line is open. The proceedings of the most recent meeting of the College Council have been posted to our website and available for all registrants and the public by clicking here.

**"I want to take this opportunity to personally thank all of our health care professionals. Your knowledge, dedication and professionalism in the days to come will be the driving force to navigate us through these uncharted waters. We will confront this crisis together.** As the largest regulatory body of health care professionals in our province, we are strictly following best practices to flatten the curve. The consistency and continuity of our health care system is our primary focus at this time, and we are working diligently to be of service in every way we can. We all have a role to play and I have the utmost confidence that Newfoundlanders and Labradorians will follow the advice and best practices outlined by public health officials."

Lynn Power  
Executive Director  
College of the Registered Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador

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