

The Hon. Patty Hajdu, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON, K1A 0A9

Dear Minister,

On behalf of the College of Family Physicians of Canada and its 39,000 members we would like to thank you for your leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic. While these circumstances place extraordinary demands on many health care workers, we are proud of our family physician members' contributions.

As the physical attendance of medical appointments has decreased in many communities, our members are now offering virtual alternatives. It is crucial that patients follow up on medical care, receive timely consultations and continue treatment plans for existing conditions without interruption. This ensures that important diagnoses are not missed and that complications are avoided where possible. This prevents a build-up of demand for appointments that could follow once the peak of the pandemic eases. Such an influx would threaten to overwhelm the primary care system. Canadians should hear from leaders like you that family physicians are still providing care and patients need not delay seeking necessary care.

We have written to the Chief Public Health Officer asking to relay this message as well. Furthermore, the following areas are priorities for family physicians during this time:

- Providing sufficient [PPE supplies](#) for community-based practices.
- Ensuring [family practices are supported](#) through assistance with technological solutions to enable remote care. This includes appropriate remuneration for providing virtual care.
 - We also recommend easing the ability of physicians to provide care remotely across provincial boundaries, not subject to provincial licensing limitations.
- Boosting the availability of [mental health supports](#) for the front-line health care providers.

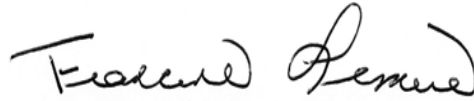
It is our hope that the federal government will continue showing strong leadership in this difficult situation.

We would be happy to provide any clarification and offer assistance.

Sincerely,



Shirley Schipper, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President



Francine Lemire, MD CM, CCFP, FCFP, CAE, ICD. D
Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer

- cc. Dr. Teresa Tam, Chief Public Health Officer, Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC)
Ms. Kim Elmslie, Vice-President, PHAC
Mr. Ron McKinnon M.P. Chair, Standing Committee on Health
Mr. Eric Mang, Executive Director, Member and External Relations, CFPC
Dr. Jeff Sisler, Executive Director, Program Development and Practice Support, CFPC
Mr. Artem Safarov, Director, Health Policy and Government Relations, CFPC