



Thursday, March 19, 2020

Since the concerns related to the spread of the Covid-19 virus in Canada were first voiced, the MTAS has consistently stated that we will follow the recommendations of the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Dr. Saqib Shahab, and the recommendations to the public from Saskatchewan Health. Now that the Saskatchewan government has declared a state of public health emergency and stronger recommendations have come from the Chief Medical Officer to practice social distancing, the MTAS is strongly recommending our members take the following action:

- Immediately cease all massage therapy services until at least March 30th, 2020.

Nationally, it has become clear that it is time to take extreme measures to help flatten the curve of this virus. We need to help our first-line healthcare providers save the lives of Canadian's. We can do this by suspending our practices, applying social distancing in our lives, and stopping the spread of COVID-19. We know our members want to do what is right, even if it the hard choice, and it is clear the right choice today is to suspend all massage therapy activities.

The MTAS acknowledges that the decision to shut down your practice is incredibly difficult. There are personal, financial and ethical considerations, and many of you will face significant financial hardship as a result. This recommendation was not a decision we made lightly. Other provincial Massage Therapist professional associations, the Chiropractor's Association of Saskatchewan and the Canadian Physiotherapy Association have all recommended that their clinicians suspend their practices immediately.

The MTAS does not have the legal authority to compel you to close your practice. Some members have already chosen to do so and we strongly support their decisions. We encourage all MTAS therapists to follow suit.

We will continue to post up-to-date health information on our website as it becomes available. In addition we will post links to information from our provincial and federal government about any employment or financial support information that you may be eligible for.

We will also respond to communications from RMTs as best we can, though we appreciate your patience as the volume of those communications continues to increase.