



The College of  
Physicians and Surgeons  
of Newfoundland and Labrador

## VIRTUAL CARE IN COVID-19 PANDEMIC

### Notice to College Members

---

February 23, 2021

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Newfoundland and Labrador (the College) wishes to thank all our physician members for the dedication and care which they are providing people in our province. These are certainly challenging times requiring flexibility and innovation to enable delivery of quality health care.

The College has received several concerns from patients and physicians about the use of virtual care to the exclusion of personal examination. This includes physicians' providing virtual care only (no office visits) to failing to examine a patient appropriately leading to poor patient outcome.

We remind physicians that while we support virtual care as a valuable tool for delivering patient care, we also expect physicians to comply with the Telemedicine Standard that **places the same standard of legal, ethical, competent, and professional care as face-to-face visits.**

Physicians must be available to provide care to their patients in the most optimal manner utilizing infection prevention and control measures and compliant with public health directives. This includes office visits for face-to-face care where necessary.

Once again, thank you for all your efforts. Stay safe and *hold fast Newfoundland and Labrador.*

All College communication to its members will be by email.  
It is a professional obligation for College members to read all College communications.