

COVID-19 Practice Guidance November 13, 2020



Confirming Scope of the BC Ministry of Health's Mask Use in Health Care Facilities Policy

The Ministry of Health policy communique addressed to health authority CEOs on "["Mask Use in Health Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic"](#) (November 4, 2020) **DOES NOT** apply to allied health professionals, including occupational therapists, who practice in community settings. This was directly confirmed by letter to College Registrars from BC's Provincial Health Officer, Dr. Bonnie Henry.

Dr. Henry advises that registrants working in these settings continue to follow COVID-19 safety plans and infection prevention and control practices. This includes the critical step of pre-screening all clients for COVID-19 in advance and maintaining appropriate distancing in waiting areas.

Dr. Henry's letter can be viewed here: <https://cotbc.org/wp-content/uploads/1181044-Allied-Health-Professionals.pdf>

Dr. Henry has asked that practitioners – particularly those in the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions – review, update and rigorously follow their COVID-19 safety plans.

Be Calm, Be Kind, Be Safe.