



Via email

April 21, 2020

The Honourable Jason Kenney
Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
10800 – 97 Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5K 2B6

Dr. Deena Hinshaw
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Alberta Health
22nd fl ATB Place
10025 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, AB T5J1S6

Dear Premier Kenney and Dr. Hinshaw:

Re: Chiropractic Clinics and the COVID-19 Response

On behalf of the Alberta College and Association of Chiropractors (ACAC) and our members, I would like to offer our sincere gratitude for your leadership, and that of the many public servants and healthcare professionals working for Albertans during the current COVID-19 pandemic situation.

As a critical and essential health service provider, chiropractors are ready to return to providing safe and effective comprehensive patient care. In your plan to reopen the province, we ask that you include reopening chiropractic clinics in the first round of phasing-in.

Chiropractic clinics were ordered closed with the exception of urgent, critical and emergency care effective March 28, 2020. Doctors of Chiropractic have taken the pandemic response very seriously. Many clinics have completely closed, and some continue to provide limited urgent and emergent care to help keep patients from seeking care in hospital emergency rooms and relieve the pressure on the health-care system. However, the tremendous burden of musculoskeletal conditions persists and the need for regular, on-going care is growing.

We recognize that the return to practice will look different from previous practice standards. To mitigate risks associated with COVID-19, our College has developed comprehensive protocols that enhance our current clinical standards to meet the dual need of patient care and pandemic preventions. Our standards around infection control, screening, ensuring physical distancing within clinics and other safeguards will continue the practices currently in place when treating urgent/emergent patients. Chiropractors are highly educated, regulated health-care professionals,

accustomed to upholding high standards of care. We are confident in our members' diligence to continue these precautions, as well as our ability as a health regulator to enforce them.

The closure of chiropractic clinics across the province has had an impact on thousands of Albertans. Those Albertans are reaching out and our members are receiving many calls from patients who need chiropractic care. However, those patients do not meet the strict criteria of urgent, critical or emergency care that chiropractors are diligently upholding. Musculoskeletal conditions, including back and neck pain, are among the most prevalent and costliest of chronic conditions, and are among the leading causes for emergency room visits and lost time from work.

Unfortunately, the emergence of the pandemic has not minimized the need for care. Chiropractic telehealth services do allow for some Albertans to benefit from continuity in their care. However, many patients require hands-on, manual treatment as their condition risks deteriorating.

Again, during these difficult and rapidly changing times, we are grateful for your leadership. Please contact Sheila J. Steger, CEO at ssteger@albertachiro.com or (780) 420-0932 for more information or to discuss further.

In health,



Dr. Brad Kane
President

cc: The Honourable Tyler Shandro, Minister of Health
The Honourable Kaycee Madu, Minister of Municipal Affairs
Mr. Paul Wynnyk, Deputy Minister, Municipal Affairs
Mr. Shane Schrieber, Managing Director, Alberta Emergency Management Agency
The Honourable Travis Toews, President of Treasury Board and Minister of Finance
The Honourable Jason Nixon, Minister of Environment and Parks
The Honourable Devin Dreesen, Minister of Agriculture and Forestry
The Honourable Ric McIver, Minister of Transportation
The Honourable Prasad Panda, Minister of Infrastructure
The Honourable Rajan Sawhney, Minister of Community and Social Services
The Honourable Rick Wilson, Minister of Indigenous Relations