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November 11, 2020

To the Registrars of Colleges for Health Professionals in BC:

Re: Confirming Scope of Provincial Mask Use Policy

The purpose of this letter is to confirm the scope and application of Ministry of Health Policy Communique 2020-05 / Mask Use in Health Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic¹ (the Policy).

The Policy does not apply to allied health practitioners in community settings, such as chiropractors, physiotherapists, massage therapists, dentists, and occupational therapists. Each of you, as the regulatory College, has developed and provided guidance for safe operations and plans to your members, which include the use of non-medical masks and other infection and prevention control measures. I ask that you encourage patient screening as the key to keeping operations safe for staff and patients.

For your members in the Fraser Health and Vancouver Coastal Health regions where the majority of outbreaks are, please encourage them to review, update and rigorously follow COVID-19 Safety Plans.

Sincerely,

Bonnie Henry
MD, MPH, FRCPC
Provincial Health Officer

¹ BC Ministry of Health. "Policy Communique 2020-05: Mask Use in Health Care Facilities During the COVID-19 Pandemic". November 4, 2020. http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Professionals-Site/Documents/Mask_Use_Health_Care_Facilities.pdf