

Update on Return to Practice

On April 27, the Government of Ontario released the <u>Framework for Reopening Our Province</u>, which sets out a staged approach to lifting the current restrictions in place when the number of COVID-19 cases begin to decline and is sustained over a two to four week period. The province has not committed to a specific timeline or dates to when the restrictions will be lifted.

I want to express my condolences to anyone who has lost a family member, friend or member of their broader community or has been personally impacted by COVID-19. This Pandemic has affected us all and I certainly understand the concerns of Registered Denturists when there is no definite date for return to practice.

The College is currently in conversation with the three other Ontario Oral Health regulators: the College of Dental Hygienists, College of Dental Technologists, and the Royal College of Dental Surgeons, to establish, as much as possible, a common approach to Infection Prevention and Control (IPAC) processes and procedures when practice is resumed. The College is also in a national conversation with Denturist regulators to share these same elements.

While we are engaged in these productive conversations, it is very important for everyone to understand that the implementation of the framework announced by the government is contingent on epidemiological modelling and evidence, health system capacity, public health measures to contain the spread, and the availability of PPE for health care workers in all settings including Denturists. It appears that acquiring PPE continues to be difficult in some sectors and allocation for non-urgent sectors is still at a very early stage.

Nonetheless, the College staff will be working in lockstep with the province and our Oral Health regulatory partners to ensure that Registered Denturists are well informed and up to date with appropriate resources.

I wish that I could provide you with more specific direction and information at this point, but we have not received that information from the government or Public Health agencies.

My personal best wishes and those of Council for your continued safety and good health,

Dr. Glenn Pettifer Registrar and CEO

Links to the following documents:

Government of Ontario's Guiding Principles to Reopen the Province News Release

Questions?

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

- Jennifer Slabodkin (416-925-6331 ext. 224 or islabodkin@denturists-cdo.com)
- Roderick Tom-Ying (416-925-6331 ext. 227 or rtom-ying@denturists-cdo.com)

