



March 19, 2020

Dear Colleagues,

We witnessed rapid progress of the global COVID-19 virus outbreak over the last few weeks, just after everyone's donations and support for the fight of novel coronavirus in China. We are encountering an extreme situation that we have not before. There is daily updated information from the Government of Canada and BC CDC for both the public and health professionals. I am concerned about our member's own health risk while we continue to provide the care of our patients, because we are the last resource for the public for this fight. We must protect ourselves. But I am glad that from all the measures announced from the government, health care provider's risk protection is on the top priority including the COVID-19 testing eligibility. Do we have enough PPE for ourselves? Probably not. Many of your clinics are like ours, which have donated many masks, gowns, and have very few left for ourselves. However, there is news coming out just this week that we can obtain additional masks, N95, goggles from different sources. I suggest if any of our members are truly short of surgical masks or N95, please contact me or any of our CCMSBC board members so we can share those supplier information or even help to re-distribute PPE.

I am also concerned about the current health care system capacity and efficiency. I tried the 1-888-COVID-19 number after it was published. However it didn't get through even after 20 mins waiting. The 8-1-1 was even worse, not able to get in at all. Clearly there are big gaps between the current system and public needs, not to mention for those who don't know how to navigate the system at all. I urge our CCMSBC member to assist your patients, friends in any of your way, no matter whether giving them a phone call or a poster on your clinic to ease the current system congestion. Advise people to do the self assessment first. If they have mild symptoms, they should self isolate at home. If they don't know what to do, they can call a hotline or physician office to leave contact information. If they experience breathing difficulty, they should go to nearest emergency department by calling the hospital first. I also encourage our members to sign up this Vancouver based physician response form https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1hTAc1qMIHvQKMIT5iAtxNOKdJ_5_nke9S7mwXhgilbk/viewform?edit_requested=true

Whenever possible, switch to telehealth for your patients from today. Publish a strict sanitization rules for your staff and yourself. Share your medical supply resources to your colleagues and feedback to us when you are in need. Please protect yourself and stay safe for your family and our community.

Sincerely

Charles Jiang, President

With CCMSBC board members