

March 23, 2020

## Message from the President: COA Update on COVID-19

Dear Valued COA Members,

In consequence of COVID-19, the orthopaedic community has come to a standstill in Canada, with most centres acting responsibly by cancelling all elective surgery and nonessential clinical visits to limit interactions. As of last Tuesday, March 17, the COA office has moved to a virtual set up with all staff working from their homes. They can continue to be reached through usual means and there will be no disruption in service.



Throughout Canada, responsible orthopaedic surgeons are exclusively treating urgent cases and adopting strict safety protocols to avoid further spread of COVID-19 while delivering emergency care. The COA highly recommends that all orthopaedic professionals continue to follow the protocol, advisories, and recommendations issued by provincial and federal health authorities to avoid unnecessary risk and do their part to help flatten the curve.

Your role as medical specialists and scientists will continue to evolve with the pandemic. Whether it be practicing and advocating for self-isolation and social distancing, assisting your centres by rescheduling elective cases, guiding and directing patients through appropriate safety measures, or front-line training to assist patients in a capacity outside of orthopaedic care – **we commend your efforts and are grateful for your contributions.**

The COA leadership recognizes the personal toll this has taken on the lives of our members and their families. More than ever, we need to come together as a specialty and a united front with our Association and support each other through these challenges and changes.

**An announcement regarding the scheduling of the 2020 COA, CORS and CORA Annual Meeting will be issued this week.** We apologize for the uncertainty and will update members and stakeholders shortly. The COA leadership continues to assess the financial impact and implications and makes decisions based on best interests of both the COA and its membership. Thank you for your patience and support.

If you have any questions, please contact CEO, Cynthia Vezina: [cynthia@canorth.org](mailto:cynthia@canorth.org)

Thank you.

Mark Glazebrook  
COA President