

COVID-19 Practice of psychology

The purpose of this message is to provide some clarifications concerning the practice of psychology in the current context surrounding COVID-19.

According to the Minister of Public Safety's Mandatory Order

(<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Corporate/pdf/EmergencyUrgence19.pdf>):

"Regulated health professionals are prohibited from providing in-person services except those services they deem essential for the health and wellbeing of their clients. The offering of services is permitted conditional on compliance with all applicable control measures in the NB OCMOH Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Guidance for Primary Care Providers in a Community Setting."

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/dam/gnb/Departments/h-s/pdf/PrimaryCareProvidersCommunitySetting.pdf>

Therefore, unless you have been officially designated by government as an essential employee, you should be practicing via telepsychology as much as possible, and if you decide to offer in-person services that you consider essential, you must be able to justify your decision for each service offered. In the event of a complaint or an investigation concerning your practice, your justification will need to be submitted to the Registrar and/or to the complaints/hearing committees. CPNB expects you to follow our Government's Mandatory Order and take into account the context and ethics to inform your decision, including the ethical principles of Respect for the Dignity of Persons and Peoples, Responsible Caring, and Responsibility to Society.

CPNB is collaborating closely with government, the other Canadian psychology boards, and the other NB health profession boards, in terms of trying to develop more specific return-to-work guidelines, in anticipation of a gradual return to in-person work. As usual, I will keep you posted when there are new developments.

Thank you,

Dr. Jacques Richard, Ph.D., L.Psych.

Registraire / Registrar

CPNB

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