



**COLLEGE OF DIETITIANS
OF ALBERTA**

March 30, 2020 (amended April 1, 2020)

Guidance on urgent, critical or emergency services

Alberta Health put out a communication on March 27, 2020 announcing further restrictions to reduce the spread of COVID-19.

Alberta Health stated that; “physiotherapy, massage, podiatry, chiropractic, acupuncture, naturopathy and optometry businesses and other health professions can continue to provide urgent, critical and emergency care to patients. However, these businesses are not permitted to provide any other service to their patient if it does not constitute urgent, critical or emergency care.”

Therefore, the College of Dietitians of Alberta requires that:

In response to the announcement from Alberta Health, all non-urgent/non-essential, face-to-face dietitian services, must be handled by phone or virtual means.

For example, in private practice, all dietitian services must be completed remotely, by telephone and/or virtual means so as to limit the number of health care professionals in one space, reduce the risk of spread, and to minimize risk to clients.

For regulated members working in acute care, sub-acute, ambulatory/outpatient or continuing care, you are encouraged to continue to work with your employers and teams to determine what is essential/urgent care and to further delineate the best ways of providing safe, ethical, and client-centred care for urgent, critical or emergency services.