

COVID-19 Update

We recognize that COVID-19 has created uncertainty for the public, clients, and registrants. In light of new COVID-19 variants and the highly transmissible nature of these, as well as our increased number of cases in Nova Scotia, it is important that occupational therapists practice a high degree of vigilance when implementing public health measures.

All occupational therapists and their workplaces must follow the [current Public Health Order](#).

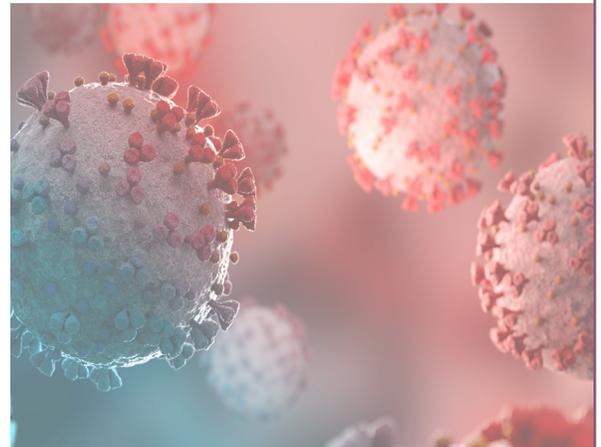
Occupational therapists working in private practice must continue to follow the COTNS Reopening Directive. Please note that you are required to follow the highest standard of precautions as directed and updated by Public Health. For example, Public Health has mandated non-medical masks in all private indoor workplaces across all common areas and public spaces for employees and clientele. This would apply as a minimum standard. Where our respective approved reopening directive mandates a higher standard, that should be followed.

Both clinical and non-clinical staff in a workplace should work together to protect their clients and keep each other safe, while ensuring that all staff are aware of workplace rules and resources. There is a variety of information and resources on the [NS Government's COVID-19 website](#).

In addition, all occupational therapists should apprise themselves of the public exposure notifications released by Nova Scotia Public Health. Health care workers who have been to an exposure site need to follow public health directives specific to that exposure site as to when they can return to work. All occupational therapists must comply with these directives.

The College recommends that occupational therapists limit their work-related travel within the province and across jurisdictions during this time of added public health restrictions. Occupational therapists should continue to utilize virtual care options when appropriate.

For information regarding vaccination availability, please consult the NS Government website.



Important COVID-19 Resources

[Public Health](#)

[NS Government](#)

[COTNS Private Practice
Reopening Guidelines](#)

Professional Liability Insurance

To be registered to practice as an occupational therapist in Nova Scotia, all registrants must carry professional liability coverage with \$5,000,000 liability and a legal endorsement for investigations by the regulatory body. This coverage may be purchased by the registrant personally or may be provided by an employer. Regardless of the provider or purchaser of the insurance policy, the policy must meet our requirements as indicated in section 48 of the Occupational Therapists Registration Regulations.

The College no longer accepts insurance coverage from Nova Scotia Health as their insurance policy does not meet our requirements. Occupational therapists must provide alternative insurance coverage.

Registrants must ensure that they have continuous insurance coverage for the duration of their registration without any lapses.

Registrants are responsible to update their liability insurance information and upload a new liability insurance certificate to their profile within 30 days of their previous insurance expiring.

Where can I purchase liability insurance?

[AON](#)

[CAOT](#)

Any Private Insurance provider that meets the minimum requirement.

Disclosing Occupational Therapist Title

Occupational therapists must clearly and appropriately disclose that they are an occupational therapist while practicing.

Appropriate disclosure ensures that you are accountable to the profession's standards of practice and code of ethics. Without this identification and disclosure, the public may not be aware that you are a regulated health professional, and that they have the right to receive safe, effective and ethical services. Disclosure also helps to ensure that the public is aware that they have recourse through our professional conduct process should they wish to file a complaint with the College.

Disclosure is also one of the requirements for the position to count towards your currency hours. Please contact the College with any questions.



Regulation Amendments Update

Our proposed regulation amendments have been submitted to the Department of Health and Wellness. We will continue to update registrants with an expected timeline for implementation.

COTNS Virtual Office

Due to public health restrictions, the College has temporarily closed our physical office and shifted to working remotely. While we have discontinued in-person meetings, you can continue to reach out to us via phone, e-mail and fax. We also continue to receive mail. Please note that you may experience short delays in responding to your emails and an increase in processing times for document requests.

Renewal

There were two trends noted during the registration renewal regarding registrant profiles.

1. Registrants are deleting old information. The College uses registrant history when completing forms and required reports including employment, registration, and insurance information. Registrants are requested to leave non-current information within their profiles to reflect their full registration and employment history.
2. Many registrants do not have their NOTCE information on their profiles. Registrants are asked to review their profile to make sure that all information is accurate and complete.

To benefit from professional advocacy initiatives and resources, the College recommends applicants and registrants maintain membership with the professional societies or associations. Please contact the Nova Scotia Society of Occupational Therapists (NSSOT) or the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) for more information.

Where can I view and print my receipt?

Registrants can find their receipts under the "My Applications" option of their online profile.

Upcoming Events

Annual General Meeting 2020/2021

The Board of Directors of the College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia (COTNS) is pleased to announce that the 2021 Annual General Meeting will be held as follows:

Thursday, June 24, 2021

12:00 noon to 1:00 pm

Online Only

We welcome all registrants to participate and request your RSVP by June 14, 2021 through [this registration link](#).

Please Note: In accordance with our General Regulations, 10% of membership is required for quorum. As such, we require 64 members to conduct any business. Vote by proxy is prohibited.

An education session is scheduled to follow the AGM. Look for details to follow.

Upcoming Board Member Nominations

Two 2-year board positions will be open for registered occupational therapists this year. If you have any interest or would like more information about the College Board, please contact the College at 902-455-0556.

Nomination forms and more information on the AGM can be found on the [COTNS website here](#).

College of Occupational Therapists of Nova Scotia

COTNS Board

Chair - Sean Ponnambalam
Vice-Chair - Cherie Lewis
Treasurer- Dominique Shephard
Director - Marybeth Fleming
Director - Lisa Saunders-Green
Email: Chair@cotns.ca

Office Location

380 Bedford Highway, Suite 203
Halifax NS B3M 2L4

Ph: 902-455-0556
Fax: 902-455-0621
www.cotns.ca

COTNS Staff

Kevin Wong, Registrar
registrar@cotns.ca

Jenn MacKay-Myra,
Administrative Manager
admin@cotns.ca