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Message from CPSM President and Registrar

All of us have heard about Winnipeg becoming a Code Red, all other regions moving to Code Orange, and a staggering daily case count of 480 COVID-19 patients. This is a very challenging time to practice medicine. We would once again like to thank all Manitoba physicians, clinical assistants, physician assistants, residents, and students for providing patient care during this pandemic.

We recognize that many of you are being stretched – required to work double shifts, wearing full PPE for lengthy periods of time, trying to find resources and beds for your patients as these resources and beds are increasingly difficult or even impossible to locate at this time. Others have had their patients' in-person visits and surgeries cancelled, having to inform patients their surgeries or medical procedures cannot be performed. Others have been exposed to COVID-19 while providing patient care and are self-isolating at home and are unable to provide patient care.

Members are concerned for their patients and are resorting to extraordinary measures seeking to flatten the curve and prevent overwhelming the hospitals and the healthcare system. Members are trying to assess what care can be provided virtually and what care requires physical examination; taking time to provide thoughtful, measured, and reassuring advice to anxious and fearful patients and to reinforce the directives of Public Health. For this, we are truly grateful.

Practicing medicine is always a privilege and we encourage you to continue practising in an ethical and professional manner. The [Code of Ethics and Professionalism](#) lists the following virtues exemplified by the ethical physician: compassion, honesty, humility, integrity, and prudence. Each of you will face many challenges to continue exemplifying these virtues during this second wave of COVID-19. Always remember to be guided by the Code, particularly

- Consider first the well-being of the patient
- Take all reasonable steps to prevent or minimize harm to patients

Thank you again for your efforts to care for your patients and keep safe.

Dr. Ira Ripstein, President (practicing ER doctor)

Dr. Anna Ziomek, Registrar (practicing Urgent Care and hospitalist doctor)