Family Medicine Advocacy Priorities During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Family physicians play a crucial role in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, caring for patients in emergency departments, ICUs, and community-based practices across Canada. The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) continues to advocate on behalf of its members during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our areas of focus include:

Ensuring essential materials are available
• Governments must ensure that family physicians and their staff have ready access to personal protective equipment and other supplies to provide care to patients who require in-person visits.

Supporting access to family practices
• Public messaging is needed to encourage patients not to delay or cancel appointments; this will help maintain treatment plans, ensure diagnoses are made as early as possible, and avoid a surge in demand following the pandemic. Family practices are open and have introduced extra safety measures to ensure patients get the care they need.
• Technological support and remuneration are needed for family physicians providing virtual care.
• Interprovincial licensure barriers must be reduced to improve access to care in remote, rural, and Indigenous communities.

Helping family medicine residents overcome training disruptions
• Family medicine residents’ education has been disrupted due to unavailable rotations, postponed exams, and their pivot to support the health care system in this time of urgent need. Resources must be allocated to ensure these disruptions do not hinder residents’ abilities to complete their training and/or provide care to their communities over the long term.

Bolstering the health and well-being of health care providers
• Health care providers need greater access to mental health resources.
• In public messaging, authorities should emphasize the need to support and appreciate front-line health care workers.

Contact us
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