



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

PFT LAB GUIDANCE

Practice FAQs

June 2020

QUESTION

What guidance is available for RTs as we start to open up our PFT lab during the current pandemic?

ANSWER

When beginning to perform procedures previously deemed during the pandemic to be “non-essential”, there are two types of guidelines to consider:

1. guidelines from governing bodies (e.g., Ontario Ministry of Health, Public Health Ontario)
2. clinical guidelines from relevant professional associations (e.g., ERS, ATS, CTS, etc.)

As outlined on the CRTO website under [Ramping Up of Non-Essential Services](#), diagnostic tests such as spirometry and PFTs can begin again provided they can be done so in accordance with the provisions stated in the current Ontario Ministry of Health documents - [Directive #2](#) and the [COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart](#).

Public Health Ontario has released the following briefs regarding IPAC precautions:

- [IPAC Recommendations for Use of Personal Protective Equipment for Care of Individuals with Suspect or Confirmed COVID-19](#)
- [COVID-19: Aerosol Generation from Coughs and Sneezes](#)

Current clinical guidelines are available relevant professional associations, such as the European Respiratory Society (ERS) - [Lung function testing during COVID-19 pandemic and beyond](#).

In addition, both the [RTSO](#) and [CSRT](#) are in the process of developing resources for RTs who are involved with the reopening of PFT labs.