



College of Respiratory
Therapists of Ontario

Ordre des thérapeutes
respiratoires de l'Ontario

ADDITIONAL DECLARATION UNDER *EMCPA*

On April 22, 2021, the Ontario government enacted an additional declaration under the *Emergency Management and Civil Protection Act (EMCPA)* which states:

"Regulated health professionals, either from Ontario or out-of-province, are now authorized to provide care and engage **outside of their regular scope of practice**, provided that it is necessary in response to the pandemic and is consistent with the duties that are assigned or the privileges that are granted by the hospital, and the professional acts in a manner that is consistent with any measures taken by a hospital as part of its efforts to respond to, prevent and alleviate the outbreak of COVID-19. Hospitals are responsible to ensure that staff members are only assigned tasks or asked to deliver services that they are reasonably qualified to provide.

Under the *EMCPA* health professionals acting under the Act or the authority of an order issued under the Act will not be subject to any action or other proceedings for actions they take or perform under the Act, or an order made under the Act, or for neglect or default in performance of these acts, where they are done in good faith"

Under this emergency declaration, due to human resource limitations and critical care shortages, there is a strong potential that an RT will not be able to meet the pre-pandemic standards of practice, as set out by the CRTO. Further, an RT maybe asked to perform duties that are outside of their scope of practice.

The CRTO expectations, per the declaration, is that all RTs carry out these evolving roles with vigilance and patient safety at the forefront. Please use your knowledge, skill and judgement to provide the highest level of patient care possible. Please ensure that the role/task being asked of you has met the following three criteria if it is outside of the scope of an RT's practice:

- a.) The task/role is necessary in response to the pandemic,
- b.) The task/role is consistent with the duties that are assigned or the privileges that have been granted by the hospital in response to the pandemic, **AND**
- c.) The RT acts in a manner that is consistent with any measures taken by a hospital as part of its efforts to respond to, prevent and alleviate the outbreak of COVID-19.

An RT administering care under this emergency declaration will not be penalized in the fulfillment of such acts.

[View the Deputy Minister Memo to Health Care Sector Stakeholders here.](#)

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the CRTO.