

CTS Response to COVID-19

CTS is dedicated to providing physicians and healthcare professionals in the respiratory community with accurate and evidence-based information as we work through the current health crisis in Canada. The pandemic is a rapidly evolving situation and the consequences of the COVID-19 crisis will be long-lasting. CTS is at the forefront of this crisis in Canada: our members are on the front lines in hospitals and clinics and as the national specialty society for respirology, CTS is being asked to provide clinical guidance to Health Canada and provincial/regional health authorities. CTS Assemblies are currently developing rapid guidance to physicians for the management of various respiratory diseases during COVID-19. At the outset of the pandemic, we developed a list of external information, resources and tools. Given the demand, we are in the process of building an online repository where our position statements, other pertinent clinical resources and emerging research are available on the CTS website. This [COVID-19 webpage](#) will provide Canadian respirologists and healthcare professionals with timely information that they can be confident is scientifically valid and vetted by a national organization that is inclusive and accessible to all healthcare professionals.

CTS is convening the national respiratory community on a bi-weekly basis through the **COVID-19 Respiratory Roundtable** to share information, coordinate initiatives and to avoid duplication of effort (see list of organizations Appendix A). The Respiratory Roundtable provides the opportunity for organizations to share what is currently available, to identify the issues and gaps that need to be addressed, identify opportunities for alignment and potential collaboration, and facilitate the prioritization of initiatives to optimize care for people with respiratory disease in a timely way. A smaller CTS task force has been established to serve as an advisory body to the CTS Executive and the work of the Roundtable.

CTS has undertaken these preliminary initiatives while continuing our 'day to day' work. We are seeking support for a modest budget to foster ongoing communication and coordination for the next 4-6 months in order for CTS to:

- 1) Provide timely and relevant information to complement guidance emerging from the WHO, Health Canada, the Public Health Agency of Canada and from provincial/local settings.
- 2) Build a virtual library of emerging research deemed to be helpful to clinicians on the front lines.
- 3) Develop resources and material for physicians, healthcare professionals and educators to support optimal management of chronic respiratory diseases such as asthma, COPD, ILD, etc. These resources will be complementary to other national and provincial initiatives.
- 4) Carry out a communication and dissemination strategy to serve CTS members, stakeholders and the wider respiratory community.
- 5) Deliver online 'Town Halls', educational webinars and provide links to recorded webinars useful for specialists, physicians, front line healthcare professionals, etc.
- 6) Host bi-weekly meetings of the COVID-19 Respiratory Roundtable with organizations across Canada.

CTS will also communicate with other specialty societies (i.e. Canadian Critical Care Society, Canadian Pediatric Society, Canadian Sleep Society, Canadian Pharmacists Association, Canadian Medical Association), federal government/agencies (Health Canada,) Canadian Foundation for Health Care Improvement (i.e. COPD INSPIRED teams) etc.) and provincial health authorities to ensure our resources are disseminated through their networks. CTS may engage or contract other organizations to provide services in support of our COVID-19 initiatives.

Work Plan

Activities	Timelines
CTS COVID-19 Online: Content development and messaging for various publications, websites and mail outs, media, and social media strategies in both official languages. Maintain and update CTS COVID-19 webpage .	As required
CTS Assemblies: Work with CTS Assemblies to develop, and update as needed, rapid guidance on COVID-19 documents re: Asthma, COPD, Interstitial Lung Disease, Pulmonary Vascular Disease, Sleep Disordered Breathing, Chest Procedures, Pulmonary Function Testing, Resumption of Sleep Clinics and Laboratories, etc.	April to December 2020
COVID-19 Respiratory Roundtable: Host bi-weekly webinar meetings with respiratory organizations across Canada - Inaugural meeting held on April 7, 2020	April to December 2020
Town Halls/Educational Webinars: CTS to host/facilitate town halls and educational webinars (with respiratory partners when suitable) that will benefit CTS members and non-members. Town halls and webinars will be confirmed in response to specific needs and issues, such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Salbutamol shortage Mitigation strategies, presented by CTS Asthma and COPD Assemblies • Recommendations for optimal management of patients with asthma during COVID-19 pandemic • Recommendations for optimal management of patients with COPD during COVID-19 pandemic • Review of prognostic criteria for COPD, ILD, Pulmonary Hypertension and Cystic Fibrosis in the “Clinical Triage Protocol for Major Surge in COVID-19 Pandemic • Recommendations for health care providers to optimize sleep disordered breathing management for their patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. • Recommendations for optimal management of patients with ILD during COVID-19 pandemic 	August to December 2020
Archival Management: Work with McGill University Health Centre, Montreal Chest Institute to assist with the compilation of emerging COVID-19 research and other scientific matters.	May to October 2020
Evaluation: CTS will put in place outcome measurements per tasks/objectives.	April to December 2020
Publications: The CTS position statements will be published and posted on the website and in the CTS Journal. The findings will help to inform the development of future responses by CTS.	April - December 2020

Appendix A: List of Participating Organizations in the COVID-19 Respiratory Roundtable

Alpha-1 Canada
Association des Pneumologues de la province de Québec
Association pulmonaire du Québec
Asthma Canada
British Columbia Lung Association
Canadian Lung Association
Canadian Network for Respiratory Care
Canadian Pulmonary Fibrosis Foundation
Canadian Sleep Society
Canadian Society of Allergy and Clinical Immunology
Canadian Society of Respiratory Therapists
COPD Canada
Cystic Fibrosis Canada
Lung Association of Alberta & NWT
Lung Association of Manitoba
Lung Association of Newfoundland and Labrador
Lung Association of Nova Scotia
Lung Association of Saskatchewan
Lung Cancer Canada
Lung Health Foundation
New Brunswick Lung Association
Pulmonary Hypertension Association of Canada
Réseau Québécois d'Éducation en Santé Respiratoire (RQESR)
Respiplus

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