

## The College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador Supports Evidence-Informed Practice to Combat COVID-19

The mandate of the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of Newfoundland and Labrador (CLPNNL) is to promote safety and protect the public through the provision of safe, competent, compassionate, and ethical nursing care by Licensed Practical Nurses.

Licensed Practical Nurses (LPNs) must adhere to the CLPNNL's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics in carrying out their professional responsibilities. With the recent increase in social media posts containing anti-vaccine, anti-masking, anti-distancing, and anti-lockdown statements, CLPNNL is compelled to identify the expectations for LPNs in Newfoundland and Labrador. CLPNNL expects that LPNs will use evidence informed knowledge and adhere to the public health advice and guidance set out by the province's Chief Medical Officer. Following the direction provided by public health is crucial to protect the public, ourselves, our families, and our community from the spread of COVID-19.

Licensed Practical Nurses hold a unique position of trust with the public and have a professional responsibility to lead and contribute to a practice culture that promotes safe care. LPNs must use evidence, science, and judgement to guide nursing decisions and take full responsibility for knowing and acting consistently with the principles, practice standards, laws and regulations under which they are accountable. Actions carried out by Licensed Practical Nurses that pose a risk to public protection are not acceptable and do not represent the professional standards that nurses are expected to adhere to.