

**Updated 3/21/2020: Updated Guidance for Massage Therapy Pre-Licensure Distant Education**

The health and safety of all our SC Massage/Bodyworks Panel (Panel) licensees is of the utmost importance. To proactively address the concerns regarding COVID-19, the Panel will allow all approved licensed massage schools to offer pre-licensure course work to be delivered online in lieu of meeting face-to-face in the classroom as required by the Panel's statutory provision. This distance education will be limited to the theory hours of instruction for Anatomy and Physiology, Pathology, Business and Massage Theory Review. The Panel's temporary emergency provision is a result of Governor McMaster's mandate that all state colleges must deliver online education in lieu of meeting face-to-face with students from March 16<sup>th</sup> through March 31.

The online training plan does not include the "hands-on massage" massage training or massage therapy clinical applications portions of course curriculum. This portion of the curriculum has to be conducted/delivered face-to-face. All "hands-on technique" and clinical applications in the psychomotor domain have to be postponed until further notice.

The goal of the Panel is to enable all massage schools to continue to teach their students despite the current outbreak of COVID-19. Temporary emergency distance pre-licensing education accommodations will remain in place until further notice.

In regards to continued massage practices, the Panel is continuing to monitor the challenges presented by COVID-19 (coronavirus) as the situation progresses, and will provide additional guidance in regards to issues that may emerge, as circumstances warrant.