



Memorandum

TO: MPA Members
FROM: David MacIntyre
DATE: April 2, 2020
RE: Message to MPA Members from David MacIntyre

Greetings,

When I last wrote to you on March 18th, we were all entering a new way of living, as the COVID-19 pandemic was revealing itself. During the past few weeks, there has been a lot of information with daily updates and changes, both around the world and here at home. The MPA Leadership Team continues to meet (via teleconference) every day to discuss new developments and implement any needed procedures. We are aware that the pandemic may require emergency measures to be in effect for longer than initially anticipated. We have prepared and planned for this and are in a strong position. At MPA, we continue to listen, clarify, adapt and respond to what we are being told by the health experts and make sure we apply these directives to the work we do and environment we create in our programs.

What has not changed and remains the most important message for all of us is:

- 1) The importance of maintaining physical distance (everyone should stay 2 meters apart), regardless of whether you are demonstrating any symptoms or not;
- 2) Stay home, unless you absolutely need to go out; and
- 3) Wash your hands

MPA Society has taken steps to create environments where our frontline staff can still provide the most effective support to all of you but do this in ways that ensure we do not place them or you at risk. I am grateful to each of them for their commitment and to all of you for your gratitude and recognition that we truly are in this together. Despite being isolated, we are not alone.

In 1971, a group of isolated individuals came together, upon being discharged from Riverview Hospital. These original MPA Members laid the groundwork for our organization. They demonstrated resiliency, compassion and kindness. These qualities remain alive in MPA and remain a motivating force that unites us. It wasn't that long ago that we celebrated our Members' Christmas together and I was able to enjoy visiting some of you in your homes during the holiday season. We will do this again and until then, there are many joyous memories that will keep me and the many dedicated MPA staff team working hard on all of our behalf.

We are thinking of you and sending wishes in the hopes that this message finds you safe and in good health.

David MacIntyre
Executive Director