



Q: I am a self-employed LPN and I provide care in a client's home. Can I continue to do this during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency?

A: There are two parts to this answer:

1. LPNs who are self-employed have additional obligations and expectations. For example, you must develop policies to outline your practice and validate that you carry the appropriate insurance and liability protection for the care you are undertaking. Please consult the CLPNNL [Self-Employment Practice Guideline \(2016\)](#).
2. When determining whether to practice during a public health emergency or pandemic, you must reflect on requirements or recommendations made by our local health authorities. It is important to consider that clients who receive home care services, including foot care services, are often within our most vulnerable population (e.g., elderly, diabetics) and therefore they are more susceptible to developing severe complications if they were to contract COVID-19. LPNs share in the responsibility of all to break the chain of infection when possible.
 - Use your clinical judgment and consider client need to determine if it is appropriate to provide treatments.
 - Follow the recommendations of Public Health regarding physical distancing.
 - Check government websites (see below) regarding if the self-employment practice meets the criteria for required closure.
 - Review the NL Public Health Protection and Promotion Act.
 - Adhere to best practices for physical distancing, cleaning, disinfecting, etc.
 - Connect with your provincial and national affiliations or interest groups to obtain information on best practices and suggestions regarding treating clients.

LPNs are ultimately accountable for their actions at all times, including during an outbreak, and they make decisions based on an analysis of all the data at hand, the needs of the client, their duty to provide care and their obligation to protect themselves, their families, and the public.

[Government of NL COVID-19 website](#)

[Public Health Agency of Canada website](#)