

AMT Media Release

March 16, 2020

AMT advises members to shut down

The Association of Massage Therapists (AMT) today advised its 3000 practitioner members to shut down for 2 weeks to help contain the spread of COVID19.

Massage therapists are in close non-casual contact with their clients between 5 to 40 hours a week. They are at high risk of becoming vectors for transmission of the virus.

AMT Chairperson Michelle McKerron said "This is not a decision that the AMT Board has taken lightly or easily. However, due to the nature of the work, massage therapists are unable to socially distance themselves from their clients and we believe the risks of transmission are unacceptably high."

"AMT recognises the huge financial impacts of this advice on our members, who are overwhelmingly self employed. But we reached the conclusion that there is now no form of screening that can be considered satisfactory, given that the symptoms of COVID19 don't manifest themselves for several days. While we acknowledge that the advice may be viewed as overly cautious, we came to the resolution that strong, pre-emptive action is required at this time," said Ms McKerron.

AMT will review the advice in the coming days and provide further updates to their members as events unfold.

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