

March 26, 2020

Hello.

This is an unprecedented time for Canadian dietitians. Our day-to-day practice has shifted fundamentally leading to uncertainty, anxiety and concern. In addition to the messages you have already received from Dietitians of Canada, I wanted to reach out personally to ensure you are aware of the resources that are available to support you during this new reality.

- <u>Dietitians of Canada COVID-19 Response Group</u> is a temporary Facebook page open to all dietitians and nutrition students in Canada, regardless of DC membership status. The group is a safe forum to connect and help one another navigate the day to day challenges during this crisis. DC staff will also answer any questions posted on this page about related DC resources and services.
- **The PEN system currently has open access.** This will be particularly helpful to those with site licenses who may not be able to access the PEN system while they are working virtually. Read the details here...
- If you are feeling unable to manage your DC membership renewal, DC can arrange for a membership extension. For those whose renewal date falls between March 18 and April 30, DC is able to extend your membership for 30 days to provide some financial relief. Professional liability insurance through PROLINK can also be extended for 30 days. Please email member services at contactus@dietitians.ca to request these extensions.
- Dietitians of Canada has issued a public statement encouraging Canadians to follow the advice of public
 health officials. It also addresses misinformation about nutrition supplements, "immune-boosting diets"
 and breastfeeding. Read it here.

To stay up to date on DC support, register <u>here</u> for the Your Weekly Update electronic newsletter. This is available regardless of DC membership status.

DC staff are working from home-based offices and our day to day operations will continue remotely. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

This is a time to come together as a community. My hope is that you, your colleagues and your loved ones are feeling supported. Stay well.

Feel free to forward this message to all dietitians in your circle.

Warm regards,

Jackie Spiers

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