

FAQ – COVID-19

To help support our practitioners during this time, we have provided answers to common questions we've received related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba recommends that practitioners stay apprised of daily updates from the Province of Manitoba to stay current on health and safety measures that may impact the practice of professional engineering and geoscience. The information provided is only general advice. As the COVID-19 pandemic is a constantly evolving situation and that each individual situation is different, it is recommended that practitioners consult with health, government, and legal authorities as required.

Should you have additional questions related to practising during these unprecedented times, please email info@EngGeoMB.ca

Are Engineering and Geoscience Essential Services?

The Manitoba Government has released a comprehensive [list of essential services](#) during the COVID-19 pandemic. This list covers many of the specific services that engineers and geoscientists provide. Businesses with questions about how the public health order and schedule of critical services apply to their operations can visit <https://engagemb.ca/covid19-csp> for up-to-date information, and to ask questions that will be answered by government officials.

Engineers are specifically listed as essential service providers; however, it is important to note that engineers are employed in many areas within and outside of the practice of engineering, and therefore not all services provided by engineers are necessarily essential.

There may be services carried out by engineers and geoscientists that are not explicitly defined as essential in this list; however, they may still be paramount to protecting the health and safety of the public and the environment. Practitioners are expected to fulfill any professional duties in accordance to [The Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act](#) and Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's [Code of Ethics](#).

Will Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba be mandating remote work for its practitioners?

It is not the mandate of Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba to set or enforce employment laws, policy and best practices for employers. However, where possible, we recommend that all practitioners follow the Chief Provincial Health Officer's orders set by the Manitoba Government in relation to COVID-19. Many engineering and geoscience consultants and employers have already implemented and facilitated "work from home" protocols. However, we understand that this may not always be possible in those cases where practitioners are providing essential services, vital to protecting the health and safety of the public and the environment during this time.

What are Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba's expectations for remote workers?

We recommend that all practitioners follow the Chief Provincial Health Officer's orders in relation to COVID-19. When remote work protocols are implemented, it is expected that those protocols comply with the established standard of practice for the engineering or geoscience services being provided, including adherence to the intent of the quality management and professional practice guidelines published by Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba.

What if my job and professional obligations require me to leave my home?

Practitioners must continue to meet the requirements of the [Code of Ethics](#), including “Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public and the protection of the environment and promote health and safety within the workplace”.

Where completion of professional work with proper social distancing is not possible, practitioners should work with clients, employers, and other stakeholders to assess and address the project, personal, and public risks and impacts of delaying or continuing with the work, while holding paramount the requirement to protect public health. This may include modification of work plans and procedures to facilitate a safer working environment with respect to COVID-19, including the use of personal protective equipment.

Under the *Workplace Safety and Health Act*, workers have the right to refuse work that they reasonably believe constitutes a danger to their safety and health, or that of another person should they perform the task. The Province of Manitoba has added new information with regard to [COVID-19 and work refusals](#).

Can I still conduct site reviews?

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba recommends that practitioners work with their clients, employers, and other project stakeholders to determine the most appropriate course of action for their project, while adhering to the required social distancing and provincial health and safety guidelines.

Consult the [Site Reviews Practice Note](#) for guidance on a professional’s responsibility when it comes to documenting and providing site reviews, and what may be appropriate to delegate in case this route is chosen to minimize extensive travel to site and thus exposure to unnecessary additional personal contact.

How can I sign and seal documents remotely?

In compliance with the *Engineering and Geoscientific Professions Act*, every member and specified scope of practice licensee is issued a manual seal. The Association authorizes the issuance of a digital signature to an eligible member or specified scope of practice licensee who makes application and agrees to assume the costs. This allows documents to be sent electronically in a single step. See our [Authentication of Electronic and Hardcopy Documents Guideline](#) for more information.

Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba works with [Notarius](#) to manage digital signatures. The Association verifies new applications, and has the authority to revoke digital signatures, whereas Notarius processes applications, renewals, and maintains the verification system.

Notarius, is offering a discounted rate on their digital signature technology. The one-time set up fee has been reduced from \$140 to \$40, plus applicable taxes for all subscriptions completed between March 18 and June 30, 2020.

For more information on how to obtain the digital signature and electronic seal technology, visit the [Signatures and Seals section of our website](#).

How should I submit documents to authorities having jurisdiction?

It is our understanding that some authorities have altered their submission protocols. We recommend you contact the relevant authority directly for more information.

How will complaints and investigations be handled?

The Association continues to receive complaints as before COVID-19 and investigations have continued to proceed. Discipline hearings have been held during these times of physical distancing, with some modifications.

Will my application and review process be delayed?

The Experience Review and Registration Committees have continued to meet once a month as usual, therefore there should be no delay due to the COVID-19 pandemic if the application is received complete and in good order. However an increase in the number of applications may affect our response rate to your inquiries. We recommend that you review the [Member Registration](#) webpage, including the [Frequently Asked Questions](#). Should you not find the answers to your questions, contact our [Registration Coordinator](#). Please note that we will respond to applicant questions on a first-come first-served basis.

Can I still take my exams through EngGeoMB during the COVID-19 situation?

The National Professional Practice exam is currently being offered by virtual proctoring for the remainder of 2020. To register for the National Professional Practice Examination with this option, please log into your [online profile](#). For more information, please contact our [Pre-Registration Program Coordinator](#).

Internationally Trained Applicants:

Technical exam sessions are being monitored. The May session has been postponed and a notification was sent out to all EngGeoMB applicants who had registered to take the exam. More information regarding the dates of future sessions will be provided. Should you have any further questions regarding future examination sessions, contact our [International Assessment Coordinator](#).

Professional Development and volunteer hour requirements for interns?

Volunteer service requirements have not changed for interns, however, individuals who are close to registration **and** volunteer service or professional development fulfillment are the **only** requirements remaining may submit a waiver with an explanation. The explanation should be sent in a PDF document to our [Director of Admissions](#). We encourage you not to ask for waivers unnecessarily and to try to find ways of fulfilling the hours via online (or other social distancing measures) instead.

Are there any changes the ProDev Requirements?

The Continuing Competency Committee has not made any changes to the ProDev program at this time. If practitioners feel that they are unable to meet the targets of the program, it is possible to apply for abatement. For more information, see the [ProDev Abatement](#) webpage.

I am no longer practising; do I need to return my stamp?

We do require the stamps to be returned, however they can be returned to the Association office once we are open to visitors.

Is Engineers Geoscientists Manitoba accepting deliveries?

While our office is closed to visitors, we are able to accept deliveries through mail and courier during the morning, 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Monday to Friday.

How can I or my company help during the pandemic?

The Manitoba government is urgently seeking the following items to support the province's response to COVID-19.

- N95 masks,
- surgical masks,
- nitrile and vinyl gloves,
- medical gowns, and
- additional medical supplies to aid in the fight against COVID-19.

Businesses that are no longer using personal protective equipment are asked to contact the provincial government immediately to fulfil this need. For more information, see the Manitoba government procurement [bulletin #1](#) and [bulletin #2](#).

Manitoba manufacturers or businesses able to provide supplies or who are prepared to re-tool and rapidly scale up production lines to develop products made in Manitoba to help in the fight against COVID-19 can go to the [online submission form](#).

Shared Health Manitoba has also issued a call to businesses who have personal protective equipment on hand. If the supplies are in original packaging, clean and in usable condition, and you are interested in donating the requested items, reach out by visiting the [Shared Health Manitoba website](#).

Where can I get more information on COVID-19?

Additional information can be found at the following links:

- [Government of Manitoba](#)
- [Government of Canada](#)
- [WorkSafe Manitoba](#)
- [Construction Safety Association of Manitoba](#)
- [Together We Build - Winnipeg Construction Association](#)