

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Member,

In the past week we have all faced exceptional circumstances because of the ongoing crisis in our country due to the COVID-19 outbreak. We are all experiencing overwhelming situations where we must juggle priorities between work, family, significant others, patients and clients, while in the process we are constantly worrying not to expose any of the above to contagion.

As you might be aware of, the Malta Association of Physiotherapists (MAP) has cancelled its National Conference last week. This decision was taken to reduce risk for the attendees after we realised that the situation was escalating. In view of this we decided to call it off for now, but kept options open to postpone it to later this year.

At a time of such extraordinary circumstances I would like to remind you, as a physiotherapist and MAP member to consider the implications of your activities and to be guided by the National Public Health Authorities. I rely on your expert prudence of your work in order to safeguard yourselves, your families, your patients/clients, mindful that as health care workers you have a duty to serve, but also mindful that whilst you are exposed to contagion, you inadvertently may also expose others.

Therefore, in keeping with Standards of Good Practice, and whilst acknowledging the right and duty to serve, the MAP understands the difficult choices that you may face in the coming days and we advise you to be vigilant, cautious and make choices whilst safeguarding public good.

The Malta Association of Physiotherapists will continue to follow the situation as it develops and make all attempts to coordinate efforts for collaboration amongst members, also in consultation with international partners so that together we make our way out of this as safely and strongly as possible.

We are always here for you in case you need support, guidance and/or to assist in facilitating dialogue.

Yours Sincerely,



**Maria-Louisa Busuttil**  
**President**  
**Malta Association of Physiotherapists**