



**World
Physiotherapy**

#PPE4PT

Advocacy toolkit

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1. Introduction

Advocacy is a combination of individual and social actions designed to gain political commitment, policy support, social acceptance and systems support for a particular goal or program.

(WHO, 1995)

Advocacy is a planned action of influence undertaken to achieve a specific outcome.

An advocacy campaign is a planned project over a given period of time in order to achieve a specific goals.

Campaigning is the process of doing advocacy.

It is the process of **engaging** with your members or the general public to generate and/or mobilise support for your campaign that can be critical to achieving your goals.

2. Background

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What is personal protective equipment?

Personal protective equipment consists of garments placed on the body to protect health care workers or other people and help prevent them from being infected such as gloves, mask, gown.

If an infection is blood or airborne, **personal protective equipment** may include: face protection, goggles, mask or face shield, gloves, gown or coverall, head cover, rubber boots.

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During respiratory physiotherapy interventions, physiotherapists need to follow **airborne precautions** and should wear:

- N95 or FFP2 standard, or equivalent high filtration mask
- fluid resistant long-sleeved gown
- goggles/face shield
- gloves

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#PPE4PT Droplet precautions

During many other physiotherapy interventions, physiotherapists need to follow **droplet precautions** and should wear:

- surgical mask
- fluid resistant long-sleeved gown
- goggles/face shield
- gloves

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3. Key issues

Across the globe physiotherapists are being placed in unacceptable risk because they are not being provided with the correct **personal protective equipment** that they need - such as gloves, gowns and masks - to do their jobs.

WCPT members across the world all report challenges in obtaining the **personal protective equipment** they need to do their jobs safely.

WCPT members report physiotherapists are being encouraged to see patients without having the appropriate level of **personal protective equipment**.

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What is the problem?

This is risky and unacceptable

The lack of **personal protective equipment** for physiotherapists undermines the goal of all governments to stop the spread of this virus.

The lack of **personal protective equipment** for physiotherapists increases the risk that physiotherapists will contract this disease at their workplaces.

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4. Actions by WCPT

As a member of the World Health Professions Alliance (WHPA) we have called on governments around the world to prioritise support for healthcare workers in the front line against coronavirus.

In February 2020, WHPA called on governments and healthcare organisations to support front line healthcare workers in any way they can, but especially and urgently through the supply of crucial **personal protective equipment**.

<https://www.whpa.org/news-resources/statements/world-health-professionals-calling-governments-prioritise-support>

WCPT has called for immediate action from the G20 heads of state and government to ensure the security of the supply chain of **personal protective equipment**.

In a joint WHPA letter, the presidents of the WHPA organisations have called for a consistent and fair approach for all health professionals and healthcare workers who are 'literally putting their lives on the line' to save people from coronavirus.

<https://www.wcpt.org/news/WCPT-calls-for-immediate-action-from-G20-leaders-on-personal-protective-equipment>

WCPT has collated a hub of resources and information for physiotherapists about COVID-19, including:

- guidelines, in a number of languages, for physiotherapy management for COVID-19 in acute hospital settings
- digital physical therapy practice and telehealth
- free courses on COVID-19, infection prevention and control

<https://www.wcpt.org/news/Novel-Coronavirus-2019-nCoV>

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Actions by WCPT

WCPT can further assist your advocacy efforts by writing a letter to your health minister in support of any campaigning you undertake.

To discuss this, please contact Jonathon Kruger jkruger@world.physio or Rachel Moore rmoore@world.physio

WCPT will amplify any successes achieved by our member organisations on our website and through social media

5. Actions for World Physiotherapy member organisations

#PPE4PT Take action

World Physiotherapy member organisations are encouraged to support your frontline physiotherapists to remain safe while treating people with COVID-19.

#PPE4PT Take action

Write to government officials

- Use the template letter, which can be translated and adapted (you can add your organisation's logo), to lobby your government for access to **personal protective equipment** for your members.
- Use the factsheets produced for this campaign to explain the **personal protective equipment** issue.
- Publicise you are campaigning on **personal protective equipment** on your website eg: <https://www.csp.org.uk/news/2020-03-31-csp-demands-urgent-action-ppe>
- Use the **#PPE4PT** hashtag on social media to share your actions on the campaign for **personal protective equipment**.

Engage your members

Encourage your members to:

- Contact their local politicians to explain that physiotherapy, as a health profession, has a critical role to play in maintaining the health and wellbeing of the community during a pandemic
- Lobby their local politicians to prioritise the health and wellbeing of the physiotherapy profession.
- Use the #PPE4PT hashtag on social media to share the campaign and demand action.

Create a coalition of health care professionals

- Physiotherapists are not alone. All health care professionals are impacted.
- WCPT is working globally with our WHPA partners to campaign on **personal protective equipment**.
- Which local organisations in your country represent doctors, nurses, pharmacists, dentists, occupational therapists and other health care professionals?
- Can you work together to collectively draw attention to the **personal protective equipment** campaign so all health care professionals can work safely?



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