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Oliver Moore, The Globe and Mail

The Ontario government has agreed to have insurance cover some forms of virtual medical care, in a bid to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus by preventing unnecessary visits to doctors' offices.

The shift came into effect Saturday and is being praised by doctors, who say it could help reduce the chance of infection.

"What this means is you can still get care from a physician, your physician, without necessarily having to go to their office, where there might be a number of people who are sick to begin with," Dr. Sohail Gandhi, president of the Ontario Medical Association (OMA), said Saturday.

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