

# HEAL



Organizations for Health Action

**SUMMARY OF  
SURVEY RESULTS:**

**CURRENT  
IMPACT OF COVID-19**

**ON NATIONAL  
HEALTHCARE  
ORGANIZATIONS AND THEIR  
MEMBERS**

March 24, 2020

# ABOUT HEAL

HEAL (Organizations for Health Action) is a coalition of 40 national health organizations which collectively represents well over **650,000 healthcare providers**.

Our member associations include those representing regulated health care providers working within the public sector, those working in communities and in the private sector, as well as organizations that deliver health care services to Canadians.

See our member list [here](#).



# THE FEDERAL ROLE

In its original *Canadian Way* document, HEAL made an appeal to all federal political parties for the federal government to assume its leadership role in health and health care.

It is in this vein that we are sharing these survey results.

***“HEAL understands that the provision of health care services largely rests with the provinces and territories, however, there is only one government that represents the interests of all Canadians.***

***It is essential that the federal government clearly identify a path forward that meet the emerging health needs of all residents.”***

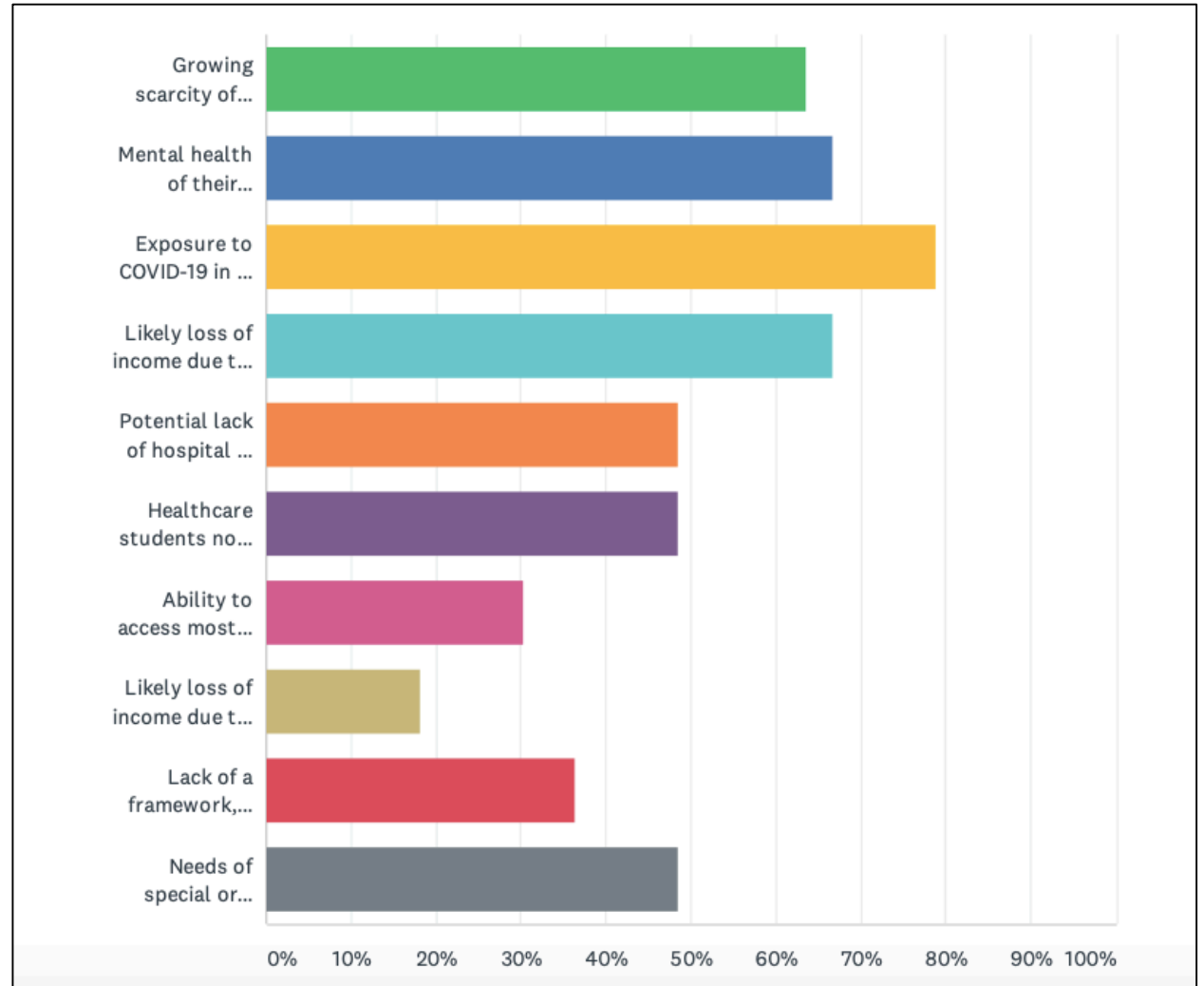
In these times of crisis, HEAL believes that the need for strong central leadership is especially critical to ensure coherent and timely messaging and decisions across the country.



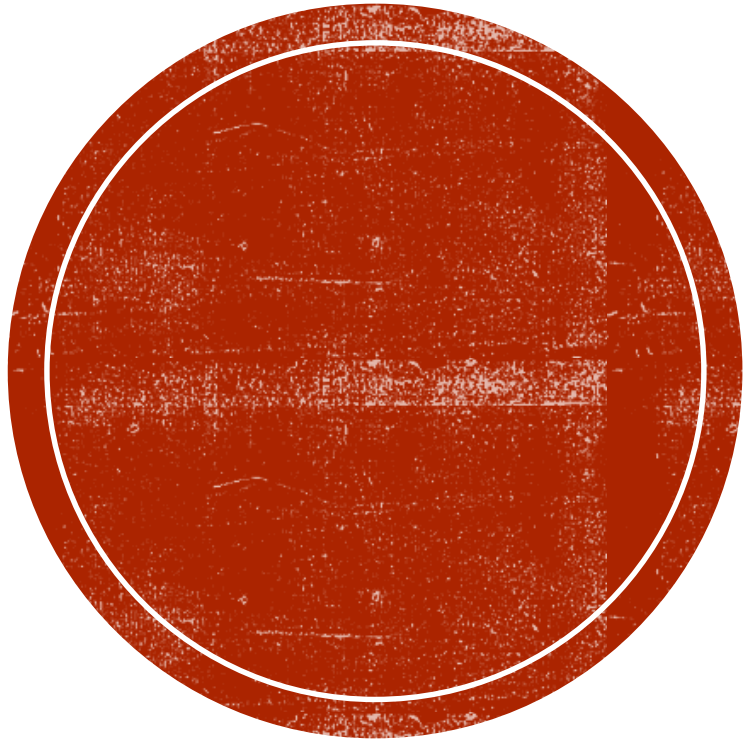
**Question:** Informed by feedback from your members, in your opinion, **what are their major concerns and/or challenges at this point in time regarding the COVID-19 pandemic** – other than the spread of the virus itself?



SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE THAT FOR MOST HEAL MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS, THERE ARE **MANY CHALLENGES AND CONCERNS AT PLAY** DUE TO COVID-19.



# Top concern identified in HEAL survey



**79%** - Exposure to COVID-19 in the workplace, and the risk it poses to frontline workers and by extension, to their families.

# Top concerns identified in HEAL survey

**79%** - **Exposure to COVID-19** in the workplace, and the risk it poses to frontline workers and by extension, to their families.

**67%** - **Mental health** of their employees, colleagues, and themselves, working on the frontlines of the outbreak.

**67%** - Likely loss of income due to **clinic shutdowns**, including impact on their employees, as well as eligibility of EI concerns.

**63%** - Growing **scarcity of protective equipment** required to carry out their professional duties in the next few weeks or months (i.e. masks, gloves, etc).



# Challenges identified by nearly half of respondents (48%)

Potential lack of hospital and clinic space, or other human or healthcare resources, to treat patients with serious conditions other than COVID-19 who need in-person care.

Healthcare students no longer being able to find placements to complete their programs, having their classes cancelled and sometimes seeing their confirmatory and entry-into-practice exams postponed.

Needs of special or marginalized populations concerning COVID-19 and its mitigation.





## Concerns receiving less support – but still a notable amount

**36%** - Lack of a framework, including reimbursement modalities, for telehealth which could greatly enhance access to care in a period of social confinement

**30%** - Ability to access most accurate practice guidelines in terms of how they can most effectively treat and inform patients regarding COVID-19.

**18%** - Likely loss of income due to unpaid overtime which might be required



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