

**SUMMARY of the Decision of the Inquiries, Complaints and Reports Committee
(the Committee)**
(Information is available about the complaints process [here](#) and about the Committee [here](#))

**Dr. Jeffrey Rice Holmes Matheson (CPSO #63625)
(the Respondent)**

INTRODUCTION

There is no physician-patient relationship between the Respondent and the Complainant. The Complainant contacted the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario (the College) to express concern about social media posts the Respondent made in 2018 and 2019.

COMPLAINANT'S CONCERNS

The Complainant is concerned that the Respondent has demonstrated unprofessional behaviour in that he is offering his medical opinions, which are not evidence-based facts, on social media and using language that is disparaging.

COMMITTEE'S DECISION

A General Panel of the Committee considered this matter at its meeting of November 20, 2019. The Committee required the Respondent to attend at the College to be cautioned in person with respect to making social media posts that provide misinformation about vaccines. The Committee also requested that the Respondent provide a written report reflecting on the College's policy on social media and the College's *Practice Guide*.

COMMITTEE'S ANALYSIS

The Committee was concerned that the Respondent's posts on social media have the potential to raise fear and doubt among the public about accepted therapies, specifically regarding vaccinations. For example, the Respondent stated that "measles was benign" and that "there are too many vaccines." He also described flu vaccines as a "failed public health initiative." Most physicians, based on their education, training, and experience, do not support the Respondent's statements, because they are not supported by the clinical evidence.

Posting such misleading and inaccurate information regarding vaccines is inappropriate and unacceptable and poses a risk to public health. In the Committee's view, these statements damage public trust in the medical profession as well as the reputation of the profession as a whole, especially as the Respondent identifies himself as a physician on the social media platform where he made his comments.

Given the Committee's serious concerns, the Committee decided to caution the Respondent.