

INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to resume in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between us.

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face

We have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, I may require that we meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if I believe it is necessary, I may determine that we return to telehealth for everyone's well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is also determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, so that is an issue we may also need to discuss.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services

You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risks). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions that will help keep everyone (you, me, and our families, staff, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting / returning to a telehealth arrangement.

Please initial each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom-free. ____
- You are not experiencing a fever (temperature of 100 Fahrenheit or more), or other symptoms of the coronavirus (dry cough, shortness of breath). If you need to cancel your appointment or proceed using telehealth because of these symptoms, I won't charge you our standard cancellation fee. ____
- You agree to wait in your car or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before our appointment time. ____
- You agree to wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building. ____
- You agree to adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. ____
- You agree to wear a mask in all areas of the office (my staff and I will too). ____
- You agree to keep a distance of 6 feet and understand that there will be no physical contact (e.g., no shaking hands) with me or the staff. ____
- If you have a job that exposes you to coronavirus-infected people, you agree to let me know immediately. ____

- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let me know, and we will proceed with treatment via telehealth.____

I may change the above precautions if additional local, state, or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

My Commitment to Minimize Exposure

My practice has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office, and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let me know if you have any questions about these efforts.

If You or I Are Sick

You understand that I am committed to keeping you, me, staff, and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and we believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or think you have been exposed, I will have to require you to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

If I or my staff test positive for the coronavirus, I will notify you so that you can take appropriate precautions.

Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, I may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If I have to report this, I will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection. I will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you agree that I may do so without an additional signed release.

Informed Consent

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

Patient/Client

Date

Psychologist

Date

Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic

My office is taking the following precautions to protect our patients and help slow the spread of the coronavirus.

- Office seating in the waiting room and therapy/testing rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- My staff and I wear masks.
- My staff maintains safe distancing.
- Restroom soap dispensers are maintained, and everyone is encouraged to wash their hands.
- Hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol is available in the therapy/testing rooms, the waiting room, and at the reception counter.
- We schedule appointments at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting room.
- We ask all patients to wait in their cars or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before their appointment times.
- Credit card pads, pens, and other areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized after each use.
- Physical contact is not permitted.
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of frequently.
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.