

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

Given the fluid response to the COVID-19 pandemic and in keeping with the best practices set forth by the American Psychological Association (APA) and the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) the following contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to resume/maintain in-person services. Please read this carefully and let me know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an agreement between us.

Decision to Meet Face to Face

We've 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 going back to telehealth, we'll talk about it first and try to address the issue. 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 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 risk).

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone

(you, me, our families, (my other staff) and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. Your failure or refusal to adhere to these safeguards may result in our starting/returning to a telehealth arrangement.

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free.
- You will take your temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. If you wish to cancel for this reason, I won't charge you our normal cancellation fee.
- You will wait in our waiting room, if social distancing seating is available, or in your car until I am ready for your appointment.
- You will wash your hands or use hand sanitizer when you enter the building.
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. For example, you won't move chairs or sit where we have signs asking you not to sit.
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office (I [and my staff] will too).
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking Hands) with me (or staff).

- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands.
- If you are bringing your child, you will make sure that your child follows all of these sanitation and distancing protocols.
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure.
- If you have a job that exposes you to those who are infected, you will let me [and my staff] know.
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let me [and my staff] know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let me [and my staff] know and we will then [begin] resume 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 virus within the office and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let me know if you have questions about these efforts.

If You or I Are Sick

You understand that I am committed to keeping you, me, (my staff) and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and display symptoms of corona virus or have been told that you have been exposed to the corona virus within the past 14 day, I will require you to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

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 and will not go into any details of the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that I may do so without an additional signed release.

Informed Consent

This agreement supplements to 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 Name: _____

Patient/Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Provider
