

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

Adopted from APA guidelines

This document contains important information about the decision (client and therapist) to resume in-person services during the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let your LLCS therapist know if you have any questions. Signing this document denotes an official agreement between you (the client) and LLCS (via your therapist).

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face - Upon mutual agreement the client and therapist 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, LLCS may require that services return to telehealth. If a client has concerns about meeting through telehealth, LLCS will attempt to address any issues. If either the client or the LLCS therapist believes it is necessary, services will return to telehealth for everyone's well-being, or postponed until the situation is deemed "safe enough" to return to face-to-face meetings.

If at any time the client decides they feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, LLCS will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. However, clients are reminded that reimbursement for telehealth services, is also determined by their insurance and applicable law. Benefits and LLCS payment policies will need to be reviewed to ensure that financial responsibilities are well understood.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services - In coming to the office for face-to-face services, a client understands they are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risk). This risk may increase if they travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure - To obtain services in person, a client agrees to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (client, therapist(s), respective families, and other patients) safer from exposure, sickness and possible death. A client must adhere to these safeguards, as failure to comply may result in starting/returning to a telehealth service.

Initial each to indicate understanding and agreement to these actions:

- ___ I will only keep my in-person appointment if I am symptom free
- ___ If my temperature is 100°F or above before a session, I will cancel the session (or request telehealth)
 1. ****I understand that if I cancel the session for this reason, I will not be charged a cancellation fee****
- ___ If I choose to not wear a mask, I will wait in my car until my therapist alerts me to enter the waiting area
- ___ I will wash my hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when entering the waiting area
- ___ I will wear a mask and adhere to safe distancing precautions set for the LLCS waiting and therapy rooms
 2. *(i.e., I agree to wear a mask, not move chairs, and keep my children from wandering in the waiting area)*
- ___ I and my therapist will wear a mask in session if mutually requested
- ___ I will maintain 6 ft of separation from others and avoid physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands)
- ___ I will not touch my face or eyes with my hands. If I do, I will immediately wash or sanitize my hands
- ___ I will ensure that my child follows all of sanitation and distancing protocols
- ___ I will take steps between appointments to minimize my exposure to COVID
- ___ I will immediately inform my therapist if my work exposes me to others infected with COVID
- ___ I will let my therapist know if I am in close contact with family or others infected with COVID
- ___ I will immediately notify my therapist if someone in my home tests positive for COVID, and we will
 3. *resume treatment via Telehealth for a two-week quarantine period*

LLCS may change these precautions if additional local, State or Federal orders or guidelines are published, and will update clients on necessary changes as soon as possible.

My Commitment to Minimize Exposure - LLCS has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and has posted its efforts on our website and in the office. Please notify your therapist if you have questions about these efforts.

If Sick - LLCS is committed to keeping its clients, staff and respective families safe from the spread of this virus by limiting face-to-face sessions if either clients or LLCS therapists become ill. Clients arriving for an appointment displaying COVID symptoms (or with strong suspicion of exposure to COVID), will be requested to leave the office immediately. If an LLCS therapist becomes symptomatic or test positive for the coronavirus, LLCS (the therapist or an admin staff) will notify that therapist's clients as soon as possible so they may take appropriate precautions. Services via telehealth will resume (or postpone) until a date not less than 14 days following either becoming symptom free.

Confidentiality in the Case of Infection - If any client tests positive for the coronavirus, LLCS may be required to notify local health authorities of their involvement with in-person services. LLCS will only provide the minimum data information required for health department reporting and will not disclose reason(s) for services. By signing this form, clients agree that LLCS may take this action without additional signed releases.

Informed Consent - This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business policies agreed to at the start of services.

Client's signature below constitutes agreement to these terms and conditions.

Patient/Client

Date

LLCS Therapist

Date

LLCS Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic

LLCS is taking the following precautions to protect clients, therapist and their respective families to slow down the spread of the coronavirus during this pandemic

- Office seating in the waiting room and in therapy/testing rooms has been arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- All LLCS staff will wear a mask if requested by their client.
- LLCS staff will maintain safe distancing and not participate in handshakes or other physical contact
- 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 and the waiting rooms
- Appointments will be scheduled at specific intervals to minimize the number of people in the waiting area
- All clients are requested to wait in their cars until notified by their therapist to enter the waiting area
- Parents of child clients will prevent their children from wandering in the waiting area and will require their children to wear masks when in the waiting area
- Door handles and other commonly touched surfaces areas are thoroughly sanitized after each client
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed; trash is disposed of on a frequent basis
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected at the end of each day.
- LLCS staff and clients have a duty to report to one another if they have come into contact with anyone that tests positive for COVID-19