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**INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS
Updated Office Safety Precautions in Effect During the Pandemic as of 2/2022**

This document contains important information about our decision (yours and mine) to meet in-person 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. Although face-to-face is my preferred model, it is possible that a resurgence of the pandemic might lead to telehealth being a temporary, but highly encouraged alternative. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address any issues, including problem solving ways to remain in person. However, you understand that, if I believe it is necessary, I may temporarily move to telehealth-only model for everyone's well-being. If this is not possible for you, you understand that I might request we temporarily discontinue meeting until it is safe again to resume face-to-face sessions.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer utilizing telehealth services, I will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, could change as this is determined by the insurance companies and applicable law. So know that that is an issue we may need to discuss as these policies evolve.

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). This risk may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab or related service, or ride-sharing service. Please note that it is possible for other individuals to be unaware that they are carrying the virus. These individuals may have been present in the office setting. However, all individuals who enter the building are being asked to abide by the following requests and to not come should they have any indication they have been exposed.

Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in moving to a telehealth model. Initial each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You agree to only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free. ____
- If your temperature is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus, please consider having the session via telehealth. If you wish to cancel for this reason, I won't charge the normal cancellation fee. ____
- Please respect other's desire for distance while in the waiting room. ____

- Please adhere to the safe distancing precautions I have set up for therapy rooms.____
- Please note that not everyone who has been in the office has worn a mask. You are not required to wear a mask, but I will have some available should you feel more comfortable.____
- Should a client request masks be worn in our sessions, please note that masks will be allowed to be lifted to drink any beverage that the therapist or client has with them.____
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, please be forthcoming. We can either reschedule or utilize telehealth options. ____

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

These two practices have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office. These practices have evolved overtime and reflect that there are no current mandates in place within our community or state. Please let me know if you have questions about these efforts.

If You or I Are Sick

You understand that I am committed to maintaining steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office, thereby helping to keep you, me, and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and I believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, I will require you to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

If I 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 and will not go into any details about 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 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

Provider

Date

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My office has adjusted it's precautions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Asking clients to be mindful of the waiting area. While it is unusual for there to be more than one party waiting in the waiting area, please be respectful of one another's need for distance.
- If you would feel more comfortable waiting in your car, you are welcome to come in at our scheduled time to ensure minimal waiting time.
- Office seating in therapy rooms remain arranged for appropriate physical distancing.
- Office doors can remain open for increased air flow when agreed upon with the client and confidentiality can be maintained.
- Air filtration device remains available and is typically in use throughout the day.
- Outside appointments can be arranged should the client desire. Benefits and drawbacks will be thoroughly discussed prior to this occurring.
- Telehealth appointments can be arranged should the client desire.
- Masks are available for clients, should they want one.
- Masks will only be worn during the therapy session should the client request they be worn. However, please note that others in the building are free to make their own choices around masks and may very well be unmasked.
- Soap and hand sanitizer is available and everyone is encouraged to begin each appointment by using these products. Hand sanitizer is available in every therapy room and in the waiting room.
- These products are routinely sanitized themselves.
- Commonly touched items are routinely sanitized.
- Credit cards can be held by the individual card holder while the provider holds the phone and reader if the client desires this to be done. The provider will sign an "x" or other similar method for the signature, if a signature is required. Credit cards can also be manually inputted or an invoice sent via square.
- Physical distance is recommended.
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessed. Trash is disposed of on a frequent basis.
- Common areas are routinely sanitized.
- People who are sick or have tested positive for COVID-19 are asked to reschedule their appointments and not come to this office while considered contagious. Please note it is always possible for someone to come to the office with an unknown asymptomatic case.
- Telehealth appointments remain available for all clients.