

Consent for Returning to In-Person Psychological Services

This Consent for Returning to In-Person Psychological Services is a supplement to the general informed consent that we agreed to at the outset of our clinical work together. Please read this document carefully, and let me know if you have any questions.

The threat of COVID-19 is ongoing throughout the United States. As a way to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19, our practice has transitioned to providing most services via telecommunications technology. Use of telecommunications technology reduces the need for persons to come into close contact with each other or to be in areas where exposure to COVID-19 may occur. However, in some situations, teletesting services may not be adequate, and in-person services may be more appropriate.

We have determined that in-person services are appropriate at this time for your situation for the following reason(s): certain tests cannot be administered reliably through remote means.

The decision about whether to engage in in-person services is based on current conditions and guidelines, which may change at any time. It is possible that a return to remote services will be necessary at some point based on consideration of health and safety issues. Such a decision will be made in consultation with you, but I will make the final determination based on a careful weighing of the risks and applicable regulations.

It is also important to consider that, although insurance reimbursement for teletesting services may have been mandated during the COVID-19 pandemic, such mandates may no longer be in effect, and teletesting may no longer be reimbursed by your insurance company.

In order for me to provide you with in-person services, the following protocols must be followed by clients and providers as recommended by Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>) and the NYS Department of Health:

- Social distancing requirements must be met, meaning that you must maintain a six-foot distance from others while in offices, waiting rooms, and other areas.
- Clients, including parent/legal guardian as appropriate, and providers will be required to wear face coverings or masks while in the office. If you do not have a face covering, one will be provided to you.
- Hand sanitizer will be provided at the office entrance and must be used upon entering the office. Alternatively, you may exercise a handwashing option
- There will be no physical contact with others in the office.
- You will be asked to wait in your vehicle or outside the office until you receive a text, email, or phone call from office staff indicating that you can enter the office.
- You agree not to present for in-person services if you have a fever, shortness of breath, coughing, or any other symptoms associated with COVID-19 or if you have been exposed to another person who is showing signs of infection or has confirmed COVID-19 within the past two weeks.

- If you are bringing a child or other dependent in for services, you agree to ensure that both you and your child/dependent follow all of these protocols.

As COVID-19 regulations continue to evolve, I may become legally required at some point to disclose that you and I have been in contact, especially if either of us were to test positive or show signs of COVID-19 infection. If I am legally compelled to disclose information, I will inform you and will only provide the minimum necessary information (e.g., your name and the dates of our contact) required by law.

We remain committed to following state and federal guidelines and to adhering to prevailing professional healthcare standards to limit the transmission of COVID-19 in our offices. Despite our careful attention to sanitization, social distancing, and other protocols, there is still a chance that you will be exposed to COVID-19 in our office. If, at any point, you prefer to stop in-person services or to consider transitioning to remote services, please let me know.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand that there is still a potential risk of exposure and that you agree to follow the safety protocols outlined above in order to engage in in-person services.

Client (or Parent/Legal Guardian if client is a minor)

Date

Lenore Strocchia-Rivera, Ph. D.

Psychologist

Date