

# UNLV PRACTICE

A Community Mental Health Clinic  
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## **Consent for In-Person Mental & Behavioral Health Services During COVID-19 Restriction Period**

This Consent for Returning to In-Person Mental & Behavioral Health Services is a supplement to our general informed consent form. Please read this document carefully, and let us 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, UNLV 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, tele-health 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):

Assessments were not designed to be administered via telehealth

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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 your therapist/counselor and supervisor will make the final determination based on a careful weighing of the risks and applicable regulations.

In order for your therapist/counselor to provide you with in-person services, the following protocols must be followed by clients and providers:

- 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 and providers will be required to wear face coverings or masks while in the office and unable to social distance. 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.
- There will be no physical contact with others in the office.
- You may not bring guests into the waiting room. Any guest must wait outside of the clinic with the exception of one parent/legal guardian of a child client.
- 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.

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 office and community. 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 anyone in the office were to test positive for COVID-19, we will be directed by a public health authority (e.g. Southern Nevada Health Authority) to release your name and contact information for contact tracing<sup>1</sup>.**

If, at any point, you prefer to stop in-person services or to consider transitioning to remote services, please let us 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/Guardian signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Witness signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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<sup>1</sup>Contact tracing is part of the process of supporting patients with suspected or confirmed infection. In contact tracing, public health staff work with a patient to help them recall everyone with whom they have had close contact during the timeframe while they may have been infectious. Public health staff then warn these exposed individuals (contacts) of their potential exposure as rapidly and sensitively as possible. To protect patient privacy, contacts are only informed that they may have been exposed to a patient with the infection. They are not told the identity of the patient who may have exposed them. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/php/principles-contact-tracing.html>)