



MARYLAND Department of Health

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

Updated Information Regarding Covid-19

Dear Licensees, Certificate Holders, and Trainees:

These are trying and unprecedented times for all of us as Clinicians, Supervisors, Board members, Board staff, Parents, Spouses, Children and as human beings in general. Our collective connectedness couldn't be more apparent as we encounter directly how what occurs in one part of the world has far reaching impact for the entire world.

As I type this, my sister, who lives in Israel and has a lung condition has been self quarantined at home for over two weeks. And yesterday, Israel implemented a quarantine for everyone to stay home indefinitely. In my house, we are all wondering if that will happen here and we are doing our best to support our family who are spread across the States and the globe. I'm sure you each have your own family concerns to tell.

We are experiencing fear and anxiety, and so are our clients. We are in this with them. It's not happening just to them leaving us to be the objective observers and guides we are so used to being.

At the same time, as counselors and therapists, our clinical services are acutely needed by many now. We encourage all of you to use your clinical judgement when deciding how best to support your clients and not to operate from a place of fear.

As you will see in the bullet points below, the Board is operating under a limited/restricted work schedule, so please be patient and know that each of us are figuring this out as best we can, just as you are. Be kind to our staff. Be kind to yourselves. Support one another from a responsible distance, and may we all stay healthy and safe.

Risa Ganel, LCMFT, Board Chair

Board office operations: The State of Maryland is in Elevated Phase II Level II Pandemic Response Operations. Accordingly, Board staff is on a limited/restricted work schedule. Board staff will make every effort to respond to email and phone messages in a timely manner. The processing of new and pending applications as well as other Board functions will be significantly impacted. Thank you for your patience during this time.

Please note that visitors are not permitted in the building for any reason and documents may not be dropped off at Board offices under any circumstances.

Teletherapy across state lines: Under the regulations, in order to provide teletherapy services to a client located in Maryland, one must be licensed in Maryland. Absent a waiver issued by the Governor, the current regulations remain in effect. The Board does not have the authority to grant waivers.

Medicaid: The Board's regulations do not address Medicaid, billing, or employment practices. Please contact the Maryland Department of Health Medicaid and/or the Behavioral Health Administration for questions regarding Medicaid reimbursement.

Supervision: Please refer to the supervision regulations for your particular level of licensure, certification, or status. Different credentials have different requirements regarding whether supervision hours may be obtained via synchronous telecommunications. Alcohol and drug counselors also have specific requirements regarding on-site, immediately available, or telephonic supervision as set forth in the regulations.

FAQs: A list of frequently asked questions and answers are posted on the Board's website regarding graduate interns, teletherapy, supervision, and CEUs. This list will be updated as needed.

Please check the Board's website regularly for updated information.

Do not reply to this email.
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