

RE-Opening Questions:

Dear Members,

In response to the many concerns received this past week with regard to the COVID-19 "return-to-work" orders from the Governor's Office issued on June 13, 2020, please refer to the information below. These orders **EO-154** and **DCA AO No. 2020-09** are not permanent.

Question #1: CAN I MAKE HOUSE CALLS?

Answer: *We are awaiting clarification from the NJ Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy about the conflicting language contained in Executive Order 154 and DCA Administrative Order 2020-09, regarding the ability to provide residential visits. We know that a large segment of licensees have practices that are exclusively based on residential visits. We support the rights of all licensees to work, and seek a more equitable solution for a return to work as permitted by the Governor. We hope to hear from the NJ State MBT Board at their virtual meeting Tuesday, June 30, 2020 at 9:00 AM.*

To attend the NJ State MBT Board meeting, go

to: <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/mbt>

To find the agenda, scroll down to left index under "Board Home" and click on "Meetings"

Question #2: CAN I PROVIDE FACE MASSAGE?

Answer: *NO... pursuant to DCA Administrative Order No. 2020-09 #4.a.: No services may be performed that would require the removal of the client's face covering, except that a client may remove their face covering when face down on a massage table.*

We can still provide forehead, scalp massage and ear reflexology.

Question #3: WHAT DOES THE NJ STATE MBT BOARD DO?

Answer: *The Board administer the Law and Rules that regulate the license to practice. You can find this defined in: N.J.S.A.45:11-59 Duties, responsibilities of board.*

In addition, we have added some useful links that may help as you return to your practice and businesses.

If you have good reason to refuse a return-to-work notice by your employer, please visit NJ Department of Labor & Workforce Development page on ["Returning to Work Amid COVID-19"](#)

One Jersey Pledge Posters are available for printing and posting in your business as the [NJ COVID-19 Information Hub](#).

Lastly, AMTA-NJ Chapter Board and Government Relations are acutely aware of the reference to the practice of massage therapy by lawmakers as "*massage parlors*." We can all agree that this is an offensive label. In that vein, GR is actively seeking to have that label removed and replaced with current and professional terminology.

As always, please reach out to GovRel.AMTANJ@gmail.com should you have questions or concerns.

Best wishes to all of our members and licensees as we return to work and continue providing comfort and a sense of well-being to our clients and patients. Stay safe and sound.

Respectfully Yours,
AMTA NJ Government Relations Committee