

## COVID-19 NJ AMTA GR Update

Dear members and friends,

The NJ State Massage and Bodywork Therapy Board convened a virtual meeting on June 30, 2020. Public members were able to attend without comment. Comments for the Board were submitted prior to the meeting and all were considered for reply during the meeting. The following is a brief summary of those discussions:

### **Replies to Agenda Items:**

1. In reply to the ability for the licensees to provide in-home therapy, the Deputy Attorney General confirmed that in accordance with **\*\*DCA AO 202-19 Sect. 5.k.** home visits are not permitted at this time.  
*NJ AMTA GR investigated further for the reason, and it is because there are no substantial guidelines to assure a safe and sanitary environment for the licensee and the client/patient.*
2. In reply to how the Board will require proof of CE's and CPR, the Deputy Attorney General assured that measures are in place for renewal to declare completion of requirements. Currently CPR renewal certification classes are available in person by some providers. The written portion for some CPR certification providers is available on-line. The Board will seek clarification if approved CPR providers allow for on-line skills renewal as well.
3. The Deputy Attorney General informed the public that the NJ State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy does not have the authority to waive renewal fees or extend renewal dates for license renewal. The Division of Consumer Affairs has the authority to consider extending the license renewal date.
4. In reply to the concern of "Right to Refuse Treatment," Board members discussed and agreed that if clients/patients present with untoward symptoms then they are turned away in accordance

with **\*\*DCA AO 2020-19 Sect. 2.h&i.** The Board members reminded the public that licensees are required to conduct two screenings prior to the scheduled appointment in accordance with **\*\*DCA AO 2020-19 Sect. 2.**

### **Public Questions/Comments and Replies:**

1. Question was asked about air purifiers and their use:

The Deputy Attorney General replied that these are not mandatory and stated that if a place of business or private practice plan to use such a device, that it should be one that uses a HEPA filter.

2. Question was asked about the use of masks, goggles/shields and disposable gowns:

The Board members informed the public that surgical masks are single use and that N95 need to be sanitized; Goggles/shields are not mandatory for LMT's, disposable gowns although useful, are not mandatory...it is a recommendation as an option.

***Please note:*** On Friday, June 26, 2020, Governor Murphy issued **\*\*\* Executive Order 157**, amending Executive Order 154, allowing licensees of the Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy to perform services that require removal of a client's face covering as of 6:00 AM on Thursday, July 2, 2020.

**Should you provide face massage, please consider using a face shield/goggles for eye protection.**

3. Question was asked should licensees work with people who have recovered from COVID-19:

Board chairman replied that clients/patients should have medical clearance from their primary healthcare provider before receiving massage and bodywork therapy following any illness, injury or chronic pain, as we usually do and as we are trained to do so.

4. Question was asked if we can provide therapy for person who present asymptomatic:

The Board discussion concluded that there is no real answer because we cannot know if a person is asymptomatic at any given moment.

5. Question was asked if we can provide Chair Massage offsite:

Board member answered YES as long as all precautions are followed and masks are worn at all times during indoor events.

The Board concluded the public portion of the meeting with a Public Hearing to summarily revoke a license. The licensee opposed and rejected the decision and due to technical difficulties, the hearing was rescheduled.

The next scheduled meeting of the NJ Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy is August 25, 2020.

We hope this helps provide you with current information as it relates to the NJ State Board of Massage and Bodywork Therapy meeting of June 30, 2020.

In the meantime, your GR Committee needs your help with information about your ability to practice in your community. As we remain active in seeking ways to provide ease of practice in our local communities, we would like to hear from our members who may have experienced, or are currently experiencing difficulty with license and ordinance rules when opening private practices or clinics.

Please reach out to us with your comments, experiences, or questions at [GovRel.AMTANJ@gmail.com](mailto:GovRel.AMTANJ@gmail.com)

These are extraordinary times that require extraordinary patience.

**DISCLAIMER: This summary is not to be misconstrued as the NJ State MBT Board minutes of the meeting. Those minutes will be posted when ratified by the Board. This summary is provided by the AMTA-NJ Chapter representatives who attended the meeting.**

For your reference, please find these useful links:

[A.O. 2020-09 Reopening of Personal Care Services](#)

[Executive Order No. 157](#)

[AMTA National Website](#)