

North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners
Public Statement regarding COVID-19
March 23, 2020

On behalf of the North Dakota Board of Counselor Examiners, we are sending thoughts to all affected by the COVID-19 crisis. This Board is committed to the safety and wellness of our state residents, and continuity of care, as well as the safety of ND counselors. Please be mindful of extra sanitation practices, and distancing from others. This board appreciates the efforts made by ND counselors to accommodate clients during these times.

Out-of-state practitioners: there are several options for practicing into the state of ND at this time. Please contact this board for the most expedient way this can be done. Also, in response to Governor Burgum's' Executive Order 2020-05, contact any of the following: State Health Officer, Director of Emergency Services, and the Executive Director of the North Dakota Department of Human Services.

The following are helpful links:

Telehealth and foreign practice: <https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/executive-orders/Executive%20Order%202020-05.01.pdf>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

<https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

NDBCE phone: 701-667-5969

NDBCE email: ndbce@outlook.com

FAQ's:

Re: renewals, please be aware that all appropriate counseling CE hours can be done online for the purpose of renewal requirements.

Obtaining consent, verbal or written. Refer to the ACA Code of Ethics or the current HIPAA laws, and the policies of your organization or agency.

Distance counseling (ND counselor and ND resident) and distance supervision are acceptable, but must be done under HIPAA compliance, using HIPAA compliant/secure formats. Audio communication (phone) is acceptable. Refer to the policies of your agency or organization and HIPAA guidelines. For more information regarding telehealth services, please review Executive Order 2020-05.1 released by the Governor's Office: <https://www.governor.nd.gov/sites/www/files/documents/executive-orders/Executive%20Order%202020-05.01.pdf>

Any counselors involved in internships, such as supervising interns and counseling activities, please refer to the guidelines and policies of the university and the internship program regarding online counseling or other issues.

Any counselor who has clients residing in another state, and are now using distance counseling, please refer to the laws of the other state in which the client is located and receiving the services to determine eligibility and compliance for distance counseling.

The following are helpful links to assist licensees and business owners:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/guidance-business-response.html>

<https://www.health.nd.gov/diseases-conditions/coronavirus>

<https://www.governor.nd.gov/>

<https://www.business.nd.gov/resources/COVID19BusinessandEmployerResources/>