



COVID-19 Acknowledgement and Consent for In-Person Services

This consent form is a supplement to the general informed consent that was provided and signed at the onset of services. Please read this document carefully and discuss any concerns or questions with your clinician.

The threat of COVID-19 is ongoing throughout the United States. As a way to mitigate the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for all parties involved (including our medically vulnerable clients, staff, and family members), our practice is offering confidential telemedicine appointments to all clients. The use of telemedicine reduces the need for unvaccinated individuals to come into close contact with each other or to be in areas where exposure to COVID-19 may occur. However, in some situations, telemedicine services may not be adequate or effective and in-person services may be more appropriate.

Based on discussions between the client and clinician, it has been determined that in-person services are appropriate for this client at this time. The decision about whether to engage in face-to-face services is based on current conditions and guidelines, which may change at any time. It is possible that a return to virtual services will be necessary at some point based on consideration of health and safety issues. Such a decision will be made in consultation with the client, but the clinician will make the final determination based on a careful weighing of the risks and applicable regulations.

In order for your clinician to provide in-person services, the following safety protocols **must** be followed by clients (and accompanying family members) as well as the clinician:

- Clients and clinicians are required to wear face coverings or masks at all times inside the building. Disposable masks are available if needed.
- Clients who are fully vaccinated and who provide a copy of the vaccination card may have the option to remove their mask if requested. However, this option will only be offered at each clinician's discretion and all other precautions will continue to be required.
- The number of clinicians and clients in the building will be minimized at all times. In-person client appointments will be spaced out whenever possible to prevent the possibility of contact between clients.
- All areas touched by clients are sanitized between appointments and an air purifier will run continuously while clients are in the office.
- Most toys have been removed from the office and only select supplies will be used during appointments, which will then be sanitized.
- Eating and drinking (other than water bottles) are not permitted in the office during this time.
- Social distancing requirements must be met, meaning that all individuals present must maintain a six-foot distance from others while in offices and other areas of the building.
- All clients are required to use the provided hand sanitizer upon entering the building. Additional hand sanitizer is available in the office to use as needed.

- Physical contact with the clinician or others in the building is prohibited during this time (e.g., hand shakes, high fives, hugs).
- The waiting area is currently closed for all clients unless approval is provided by your clinician. You will be asked to wait in your vehicle or outside the building until you receive a text, email, or phone call from your clinician indicating that you can enter.
- For child appointments, only one adult may be present to reduce the number of people in the building.
- All individuals attending an appointment will receive a no-touch temperature check upon entrance. If a fever is detected, the appointment will be rescheduled for another date.
- Prior to the appointment, your clinician will ask if any member of the client’s household has experienced a fever, shortness of breath, coughing, or other symptoms associated with COVID-19 in the past 14 days **OR** if any member of the household has been exposed to another person who is experiencing symptoms or has received positive COVID-19 results in the past 14 days. Based on these responses, the appointment may be rescheduled to a future date.

As COVID-19 regulations continue to evolve, your clinician may become legally required to disclose that they have been in contact with the client, particularly if either individual tests positive or shows signs of COVID-19 infection. If your clinician is legally compelled to disclose information, you will be informed and only the minimum necessary information required by law will be provided (e.g., client/guardian name and the dates of in-person services).

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 offices. 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 at any point you prefer to discontinue in-person services or transition to teletherapy sessions, please inform your clinician.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you have received, read, and understood the above risks and safety procedures. Your signature indicates that you agree to comply with all required procedures and you seek and consent to in-person services at Missouri City Family Counseling. You are further acknowledging that you understand the risks inherent in participating in face-to-face services and you agree to hold Missouri City Family Counseling harmless in the event that a member of your household contracts the COVID-19 virus.

Client Name	Date of Birth
Legal Guardian Signature #1	Date
Legal Guardian Signature #2	Date
MCFC Clinician	Date