



# Renewed Hope Counseling and Wellness

1550 N Crestmont Dr. Suite A, Meridian, ID 83642

P: (208) 288-4200

F: (208) 288-4279

operations@rhcwmentalhealth.com

## Informed Consent for In-Person Services During Covid-19 Public Health Crisis

This document contains important information regarding in-person services during the coronavirus public health crisis.

### Face-to-Face Agreement

You have agreed to meet in-person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, we may require that you meet with your clinician via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will discuss the situation and address any concerns or issues. If RHCW/your clinician believes it is necessary to return to telehealth for everyone's well-being, you will be notified.

If at any time you prefer to stay/return to telehealth services, please advise your clinician. We will make every effort to support that decision, wherein it is feasible and clinically appropriate. However, reimbursement for telehealth services is determined by the insurance companies and applicable law, which may be affect your co-pay/patient responsibility portion.

### Risks of Opting for In-Person Services

By coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to the coronavirus (or other public health risks). These risks may increase if you travel by public transportation, cab, or ridesharing service.

### Patient Responsibility to Minimize Exposure

In order to obtain services in-person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, other patients, clinicians, staff, and our families) safer from exposure, sickness, and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in starting/returning to telehealth arrangements.

I understand and agree to the following conditions:

- I will only keep my in-person appointment if I am symptom free
- I will take my temperature before coming to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if I have other symptoms of the Coronavirus, I agree to cancel my appointment or proceed using telehealth. If I wish to cancel for this reason, a cancellation fee may apply.
- I will wait in my car or outside the office until no earlier than 5 minutes before my appointment time.
- I will wash my hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when I enter the building.
- I will adhere to the safe distancing precautions RHCW has set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. (For example, not moving chairs or sitting where signs are posting asking patients not to sit.)
- I will wear a mask if I wish but this is not required.
- I will maintain a distance of six feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. shaking hands) with me, other staff, or other persons.
- I will try to avoid touching my faces or eyes with my hands. If I do, I will immediately wash or sanitize my hands.
- If I am brining my child, I will ensure that he/she follows all sanitation and distancing protocols. My child will not be allowed to wait in the lobby during my appointment.
- I will take steps between appointment to minimize my exposure to Coronavirus.
- If I have a job that exposes me to other people who are infected, I will immediately let my clinician and RHCW staff know.
- If a resident of my household tests positive for the infection, I will immediately let my clinician and RHCW staff know and I will then begin/resume treatment via telehealth.

The above precautions may change as additional local, state, or federal guidelines are published. If that occurs, we will discuss any necessary changes.

**Our Commitment to Minimize Exposure**

RHCW and Clinicians have taken steps to protect our patients and reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office which are posted on our website and in the office. These precautions include:

- Appropriate physical distancing of waiting room and therapy/testing room seating
- Staff maintaining a safe 6-foot distancing and wearing of masks if closer than 6 feet
- Hand sanitizer (minimum of 60% alcohol) is available in all common areas and offices
- Regular maintenance and cleaning of restroom, and regular hand washing
- Patients are asked not to enter our office any earlier than 5 minutes before their appointment time
- Appointments scheduled at specific intervals to minimize number of patients in the waiting room at one time
- Physical contact is not permitted
- Tissues and trash bins are easily accessible, and trash is disposed of on a frequent basis
- Commonly touched items (pens, credit card pads, etc.) are sanitized after each use
- Common areas are thoroughly disinfected daily.

**If You or Your Clinician Are Sick**

We are committed to keeping you, our staff, and all our families safe. If you show up for an appointment with apparent symptoms or have been potentially exposed, you will be required to leave the office immediately, with follow-up telehealth services being provided as appropriate.

If your clinician or one of our staff members has tested positive for the coronavirus, you will be notified so you can take the necessary precautions.

**Your Confidentiality in Case of Infection**

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, we may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in our office. Such a report will only provide the minimum required information for their data collection. All personal health information will be kept confidential to the fullest extent permitted by law. By signing this form, you agree that this may be done without an additional signed release.

**Informed Consent**

I have read, understood, and agree to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patient/Guardian Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date