

## **INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS**

This document contains important information about the decision to resume in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. Please read this carefully and let ABC staff know if you have any questions. When you sign this document, it will be an official agreement between you and A Better Connection Inc.

### **Decision to Meet Face-to-Face**

You and your clinician 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, your clinician may require that we meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, we will talk about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if the clinician believes it is necessary, they may determine that we return to telehealth for everyone's well-being.

If you decide at any time that you would feel safer staying with, or returning to, telehealth services, your clinician will respect that decision, as long as it is feasible and clinically appropriate. Reimbursement for telehealth services, however, is determined by insurance companies and applicable law, and is subject to change.

### **Risks of Opting for In-Person Services**

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

### **Your Responsibility to Minimize Your Exposure**

To obtain services in person, you agree to take certain precautions which will help keep everyone (you, ABC Staff, other clients, and our families) safer from exposure, sickness, and possible death. If you do not adhere to these safeguards, it may result in our starting / returning to a telehealth arrangement. Check each to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- You will only keep your in-person appointment if you are symptom free.
- Your temperature will be taken and you will be screened for symptoms upon arrival to each appointment. If it is elevated (100 Fahrenheit or more), or if you have other symptoms of the coronavirus, you agree to cancel the appointment or proceed using telehealth. Cancellation due to illness will not be held against you.
- You will wait in your car or outside or in a designated waiting area until no earlier than 10 minutes before your appointment time.
- You will wash your hands or use alcohol-based hand sanitizer when you enter the building.
- You will adhere to the safe distancing precautions we have set up in the waiting room and testing/therapy room. For example, you won't move chairs or sit where we have signs asking you not to sit.
- You will wear a mask in all areas of the office. ABC Staff will also wear masks. Masks to be worn during session will be left to the clinician's discretion.
- You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with others.
- You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands.

- If you are bringing your child, you will make sure that your child follows all of these sanitation and distancing protocols.
- You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID-19.
- If you have a job that exposes you to other people who are infected, you will immediately let ABC staff know.
- If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let ABC Staff know.
- If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let ABC Staff know and we will then begin/resume treatment via telehealth or your appointments will be postponed until the recommended isolation period has passed.

The above precautions are subject to change if additional local, state or federal orders or guidelines are published. If that happens, we will talk about any necessary changes.

### **My Commitment to Minimize Exposure**

ABC Inc. has taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office and we have posted our efforts on our website and in the office. Please let ABC Staff know if you have questions about these efforts.

### **If You or ABC Staff Are Sick**

You understand that ABC Staff are committed to keeping you, staff, and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and staff believe that you have a fever or other symptoms, or believe you have been exposed, you will be required to leave the office immediately. We can follow up with services by telehealth as appropriate.

If ABC Staff test positive for the coronavirus, you will be notified so that you can take appropriate precautions.

### **Your Confidentiality in the Case of Infection**

If you have tested positive for the coronavirus, ABC Staff may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If this report is required, ABC Staff will only provide the minimum information necessary for their data collection and will not go into any details about the reason(s) for our visits. By signing this form, you are agreeing that ABC Inc. may do so without an additional signed release.

### **Informed Consent**

This agreement supplements the general informed consent/business agreement that we agreed to at the start of our work together.

Your signature below shows that you agree to these terms and conditions.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Client

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clinician

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date