




Health Mandate 015- Health Care Services

Effective April 24, 2020

Appendix 02 - Chiropractors

Issued May 8, 2020

By: Governor Mike Dunleavy 
Commissioner Adam Crum  Alaska Department of Health and Social Services
Dr. Anne Zink  Chief Medical Officer, State of Alaska

I. Applicability

- a. This Appendix applies to licensees of the Board of Chiropractic Examiners and unlicensed assistive staff as authorized in AS 08.20.
- b. This Appendix augments and clarifies the requirement of Mandate 015.
- c. Compliance with licensing and board direction:
 - i. Nothing in this mandate or any attachment shall be construed to waive any existing statutory, regulatory, or licensing requirements applicable to licensed providers or businesses operating under this appendix.
 - ii. Chiropractors should consult their licensing board for additional direction on standards for providing services.
- d. Chiropractors or clinics may opt to require more stringent safety and sanitation measures when reopening.

II. Social Distancing

- a. All patients must receive pre-visit telephonic consultation to screen for symptoms consistent with COVID-19, recent out-of-state travel, and exposure to people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19 within the last 14 days. Standard questions include:
 - i. Have you been confirmed positive for COVID-19?
 - ii. Are you currently experiencing, or have you recently experienced, any acute respiratory illness symptoms such as fever, cough, or shortness of breath?
 - iii. Have you knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has been confirmed positive for COVID-19?
 - iv. Have you traveled out of state within the last 14 days?
 - v. Have you knowingly been in close contact with anyone who has traveled out of state and is also exhibiting acute respiratory illness symptoms?
- b. If the answer to any of the questions are yes, the chiropractor or business/clinic owner shall decline to schedule an appointment for a session with a patient.
- c. Only services that can be performed without the patient removing their face covering are permitted.
- d. The chiropractor or business/clinic owner must keep records so they can contact all patients who received services within two weeks of a patient testing positive for COVID-19.
- e. Procedures Upon Arrival
 - i. No non-patient visitors are allowed. Only patients, staff, and clinicians are to be present in the facility.

For the latest information on COVID-19, visit covid19.alaska.gov.

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- ii. Social distance parameters in waiting rooms should include marked, defined spaces.
- iii. Patients should wash or sanitize hands upon entry into the establishment and are encouraged not to touch their face.
- iv. Verify patient has, at a minimum, a cloth facemask. Surgical mask is suggested.
- v. Take patient temperature, sanitize thermometer, and document in chart.
- vi. Operate remotely and assure social distancing guidelines are adhered to as much as possible (if pen and paper is required for use upon entry, pens, clip boards, and other commonly touched items must be cleaned and disinfected); Reaffirm all prescreening questions upon arrival prior to beginning service.

III. Hygiene Protocols

Clinics must adhere to CDC safety and sanitation guidelines for health care providers. Currently, these guidelines include COVID-19 mitigation. Full details can be found online at <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control-recommendations.html>.

- a. Additional infection control guidelines for general practice are available at <https://www.cdc.gov/infectioncontrol/index.html>.
- b. The highlights below are not exhaustive and are provided for clarification.
 - i. Personal Protective Equipment
 1. Clinical staff must wear surgical masks, which must be properly removed, disposed, and replaced if wetted through or soiled on the patient-facing surface.
 2. Employees not present for provision of services or procedures shall wear face coverings.
 3. If eye protection is used, it must be properly disinfected or replaced after each patient encounter.
 4. The employer is responsible for supplying personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies to its employees.
 - ii. Personal and Environmental Mitigation
 1. Chiropractor or service provider must wash hands, arms, and elbows before and after each patient encounter.
 2. Chiropractor or business/clinic owner must schedule patients to allow sufficient time for cleaning and disinfecting between each patient.
 3. Chiropractor or business owner must assure that any area exposed to a patient's skin or bodily fluids are disinfected according to CDC guidelines. CDC recommends a solution of one-third cup of liquid bleach per gallon of water or 75 percent-alcohol-based wipes.

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4. Chiropractor or business owner must safely place linens in a bin after each patient, and must use gloves whenever handling linens. The bin must be disinfected daily.
5. Chiropractor or business owner must ensure that all soiled or used linens are washed at the warmest appropriate water setting.