



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PSYCHOLOGISTS

4334 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, #C-150
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70816

Voice: (225)295-8410
Fax: (225)295-8412
Email: admin.lsbep@la.gov
Website: lsbep.org

WEEKLY WEDNESDAY UPDATE #5

April 22, 2020

Dear Licensee,

The LSBEP officers and administration recognize the rapid changes occurring in your lives and practices. Therefore, this agency will continue sending weekly updates every Wednesday for the duration of the COVID19 emergency. This update is the fifth in this "Weekly Wednesday" series, refer to the LSBEP website www.lsbep.org for archived weekly updates, links to referenced information, and other communication from the board. Additionally, please note that we are aware that due to rapid changes in information and interpretation of various directives from state and local officials, information may vary over time. Please ensure you are referencing the most updated information when making decisions about your practice.

As previously noted, should news impacting your practice require more immediate attention, additional updates may be necessary. Koren Boggs, Ph.D., Chair; Amy Henke, Psy.D., Vice Chair; and Jaime Monic, Executive Director have been meeting daily via telephone or Zoom to discuss developments in regulation and resources you need to remain compliant in your practice while putting the health and welfare of your patients first. Our goal is to keep you informed, but not overwhelm your email!

For our fifth Weekly Wednesday Update, we would like to advise you of the following:

1) On 04/07/20, LDH extended their Notice/Order ([LDH – Order #2020-Covid19-ALL-010 Extended](#)) to correspond with the Governor's Stay-at-Home Order. This Notice/Order was again amended and updated on 04/20/20 ([LDH Order #2020-Covid19-ALL-010 Amended and Updated](#)). The amended guidance goes into effect on April 27, 2020, will supersede previous Notice/Orders referenced, and provides information pertinent to in-person care and follow-up measures that must be taken by providers. Psychologists should pay special attention to Section III regarding provisions for non-medical/surgical care and in particular, Section III-C which pertains to providers' responsibilities if in-person care is provided.

2) The CMS guidelines “[Re-opening Facilities to Provide Non-emergency Non-COVID-19 Healthcare: Phase I](#)” released on 04/19/20 and referenced within the most recent LDH Notice/Order, contain specific and concrete steps to take when considering resuming in-person non-COVID-19 health care following a determination by state or regional public health authorities that the “Gateway Criteria” established by the CDC have been met in regions with a current low incident rate and for those procedures that are deemed medically necessary. The CMS guidance emphasizes the importance of continuous monitoring of a region's status as "low risk of incidence" and preparation to cease non-essential procedures if there is a surge. CMS strongly encourages continued maximum use of all telehealth modalities wherever possible.

3) LDH has requested that LSBEP share the following advisory regarding non-discriminatory practices during COVID-19: “[Guidance on the Provision of Health Care Services in a Non-Discriminatory Manner During the COVID19 Event](#)”

LSBEP again thanks Louisiana Psychologists for stepping up to the challenges in applying technology to deliver psychological services to their patients and clients safely, while respecting the health and well-being of their patients/clients, the people with whom they work, themselves, as well as the individuals who have no other choice but to be exposed to COVID19. Our Ethical Standards are established for the welfare and protection of the individuals and groups with whom psychologists work. Therefore, our charge is to think of others before ourselves and to consider all risks when determining how to provide vital care to our clients and patients. Emergency Orders and Proclamations from Federal, State and Local Governments impose stricter but necessary restrictions and guidelines impacting the delivery of psychological services for the time being. History will remember our actions or inactions at this time. Let us remember why we all chose this profession and be on the side of history that aligns with the health and well-being of all people.

Sincerely,

LSBEP Executive Committee

Koren Boggs, Ph.D., Chair

Amy Henke, Psy.D., Vice Chair

Jaime T. Monic, Executive Director