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

This document contains important information about our decision to resume in-person services in light of the COVID-19 public health crisis. This is an addendum to Counseling and Testing Services’ (CTS) standard and Telemental Health informed consents and does not replace either agreement. Please read this carefully and let your clinician know if you have any questions.

Decision to Meet Face-to-Face
We 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, your clinician may require that you meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting through telehealth, you and your clinician will talk about it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if your clinician believes it is necessary, they may determine that you 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.

Risks of Opting for In-Person Services
You understand that by coming to the office, you are assuming the risk of exposure to COVID-19 (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 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 or providing you with community referrals. Please initial each statement to indicate that you understand and agree to these actions:

- If you have two or more of these symptoms of COVID-19 you will call the office to cancel the appointment or request to proceed using Telemental health: ___
  - A fever of 100 Fahrenheit or more, chills, or sweating;
  - Shortness of breath, difficulty breathing, or new or worsening cough;
  - Sore throat, or new loss of taste or smell;
  - Muscle or body aches, headache, or fatigue;
  - Congestion or runny nose;
  - Nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Cancellations due to these symptoms will not be counted towards our no-show policy. ___
- When canceling due to these symptoms, services will be provided using Telemental health for at least two weeks to ensure you no longer have symptoms. ___
- You will wait in your car or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before our 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 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 (CTS staff/clinician will too). ___

You will keep a distance of 6 feet and there will be no physical contact (e.g. no shaking hands) with CTS staff/clinicians. ___

You will try not to touch your face or eyes with your hands. If you do, you will immediately wash or sanitize your hands. ___

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 your clinician know. ___

If your commute or other responsibilities or activities put you in close contact with others (beyond your family), you will let your clinician know. ___

If a resident of your home tests positive for the infection, you will immediately let your clinician know and we will then [begin] resume treatment via telehealth. ___

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

Our Commitment to Minimize Exposure
UNT and CTS have taken steps to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus within the office, and UNT has posted its efforts on the UNT website. Please let your clinician know if you have questions about these efforts.

If You or Your Clinician Are Sick
You understand that CTS is committed to keeping you, CTS staff and all of our families safe from the spread of this virus. If you show up for an appointment and CTS staff believes 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 any of the CTS staff tests 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, CTS may be required to notify local health authorities that you have been in the office. If we have to report this, CTS 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 CTS may do so without an additional signed release.

Acknowledgements and Informed Consent
• I have read and understand this information. I am aware I can ask questions for further clarification.
• I am aware of the risks associated with in-person services and agree to follow all the CTS safety rules.
• I hereby give consent for in-person services during the COVID-19 public health crisis.