

03/22/20

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: COVID19

Dear Licensee,

Please read the attached NOTICE/ORDER #2020-COVID19-ALL-007 issued by the Louisiana Department of Public Health, Jimmy Guidry, M.D., State Health Officer. These directives DO APPLY to you as a licensee of the Louisiana State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (LSBEP).

This NOTICE/ORDER relates to transitioning in-person healthcare services to a telehealth mode of delivery when appropriate and when the same standard of care can be met as an in-person visit. Please read Section II of this Notice/Order specifically for additional information. Ultimately, the decision to postpone in-person services or use a telehealth mode of delivery for or each patient must be made by the psychologists when, in their clinical judgment, determining whether or not the treatment constitutes an “emergency medical condition” defined under 42 CFR SECTION 489.24. Other than true emergencies the only cases that should proceed are those that would “avoid further harms from underlying condition or disease”. Psychologists are encouraged to consult with an attorney, colleagues and/or other professionals when making this determination. LSBEP will not consult on clinical determinations. You are further advised to seek the resources available from local, state, and national organizations/associations related to clinical best practices during this crisis.

Please check the homepage of the LSBEP website (www.lsbep.org) for resources and regular updates related to the COVID19 emergency. LSBEP has published guidelines and resources on their website to assist you in developing and implementing telepsychology in your practice. Please feel to respond with any questions and let us know how we can continue to support you during this unprecedented time. Thank you for all that you do to provide vital services to the people of Louisiana.