

May 9, 2020

Dear Michigan AMTA Family,

The State of Michigan has still NOT released LMTs to return to work, and has not yet given us a timeline as to when that will happen. We continue to wait for specific disinfecting, cleaning and sanitation procedures from our Regulatory Board and the Board of Health, and will post those immediately upon receipt.

So many of you have contacted us asking what you can do to plan for returning to work. The following information was posted recently on the AMTA National site. Other states have different regulations than ours, and some have already been released to return to work. We've made a few changes to the post so it's more relevant to us.

We do understand your desire to plan ahead and stay fully informed. There are plenty of recommendations flooding the internet, some intelligent and well thought out, others from well-meaning people with poorly informed guesses while others are purely sales pitches.

Our path is unclear, so we ask that you continue being patient. As we get more information, we will continue to share it with you. Take the following as considerations, and not requirements. The CDC, OSHA, and our state health department will all weigh in. There will be adjustments to these guidelines as the world's understanding of the virus and how to protect against it continues to develop.

Your AMTA Michigan Chapter Board.

From AMTA National (with edits from Michigan)

We realize the last several months have been incredibly challenging and that you have been coping with changes to your employment, education, and everyday life. It's during tough times like these that our AMTA community matters more than ever. We have been working tirelessly to advocate for your needs during this crisis. And, as states begin the phasing process to reopen, we will be with you every step of the way.

We understand that many of you have questions about when and how you can begin practicing again. We want to assure you that AMTA's Government Relations team is actively engaging with federal and state agencies for the most [up-to-date decisions and orders](#) that affect you and your massage therapy practice. And, we have been actively engaging with state agencies on what their reopen processes will look like, understanding they will be different region-to-region and state-to-state.

10 Important Considerations for Reopening

Knowing that every state will restart in its own way and will likely provide varying specifics for how and when you can begin to practice, here are 10 important considerations as you plan for when your state will allow you to begin seeing clients again.

1. Gain a full understanding of any new laws and ordinances at the local, state, and national levels and adjust your practices accordingly.
2. Institute thorough cleaning, disinfecting and sanitizing protocols in your massage room as well as any communal areas and of any objects clients touch.

3. Consider the laundry policy for your clothes, linens, towels, and other washable objects.
4. Think about your own use of Personal Protection Equipment (including masks, gloves, and clothing).
5. Practice proper handwashing and hygiene protocols.
6. Consider your booking practices and make any changes to allow for sanitization procedures and recognizing social distancing recommendations that may limit the number of people in one space. Evaluate your cancellation policy and protocols if a client shows signs of illness.
7. Implement an enhanced intake process and demonstrate your commitment to the health of your clients and yourself.
8. Minimize contact during check-ins and check out (make use of virtual tools).
9. If you work with other massage therapists or service providers, consider any necessary updates to your HR and staffing policies. If you are an employee, carefully review any guidelines you will need to follow.
10. Post signage in waiting rooms and common areas to emphasize social distancing, handwashing, and any protective equipment you expect your clients to use.

We encourage every massage therapist to use their best professional judgment about their ability to accept and care for clients in a way that follows their [state](#), [CDC](#) and [OSHA](#) guidelines. And, we are working to get more concrete answers from healthcare experts, governments and massage therapy licensing boards and will be providing you with resources for protecting both yourself and your clients.

Your Liability Coverage

We also know many of you have questions about your liability insurance coverage when you begin to see clients again. As long as you are practicing legally and in accordance with federal, state and facility guidelines, your AMTA liability insurance will cover you as it always does.

Lastly, we continue to encourage you to check our [COVID-19 webpage](#) for the latest updates and guidance. We believe in our massage therapy community and our collective resilience, and we will navigate how to safely move forward together.

Your AMTA Team