

## New Mexico Medical Advisory Team (MAT) Assessment

**MAT Workgroup Name:** Reopening Healthcare

**Date:** May 20, 2020

### **Reopening Guidelines: Doctors of Oriental Medicine**

These guidelines are recommended for use by acupuncturists, Doctors of Oriental Medicine, and auricular detoxification.

#### **Principles:**

The following priorities must inform all actions towards resuming non-emergent and medically necessary care and office-based procedures:

- Minimize the risk of SARS-COV-2 transmission to patients, healthcare workers and others;
- Avoid further delays in healthcare for New Mexicans;
- Maintain adequate hospital capacity in case of an increase in COVID-19 cases;
- Minimize health emergencies presenting at emergency departments;
- Support the healthcare workforce in safely resuming activities; and,
- Non-emergent and medically necessary procedures performed in medical and dental offices are assumed to be minimally invasive with outcomes not strongly associated with the patient's COVID-19 status.

#### **PPE considerations:**

Prior to resuming non-emergent and medically necessary care in medical offices, the following criteria must be met:

- The office must have adequate PPE supplies for 2 weeks without the need for emergency PPE conserving measures; and,
- CDC guidelines must be followed for extended use or reuse of PPE.

#### **Considerations for Facilities/ Clinics:**

- Facilities and clinics to decide capacity goal based on ability to disinfect between appointments and to isolate patients from other patients;
- Medical offices should implement social distancing measures within waiting rooms and other areas of the office;
- Medical offices must maintain a plan to reduce or stop nonemergency and elective procedures should a surge/resurgence of COVID-19 cases occur in their region;
- Prioritize patients and procedures based on whether continued delay will have potential for increased morbidity and mortality;
- Follow [CDC guidelines](#) for infection control;
- All patients and caregivers to wear a mask (except where not feasible due to type of care delivered);
- Continue to deliver care via telehealth where feasible;
- Whenever possible, use treatment protocols with limited numbers of points. Consider using distal points, staying far from the patient's head as much as possible. If feasible, leave the room while needles are in;
- Community acupuncture clinics may need to reduce the number of patients they see to allow for patients to remain 6 feet apart;
- Use touchless payment methods where possible; and,
- Consider doing intake interviews by phone or online. Sit more than 6 feet apart while conversing; and,

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- Use online scheduling where possible, to avoid exchanges of appointment cards or other papers. Provide any necessary forms online.

### **Enhanced Screening procedures:**

- Telephone or online screening of patients and caregivers for COVID-19 symptoms, previous exposure, and prior COVID-19 testing at time of scheduling;
- COVID-19 positive cases should not visit the office for treatment until they have been released from isolation using current [NM Department of Health guidelines for isolation and quarantine](#).
- Upon arrival to facility, screen all patients for symptoms, including temperature checks.

### **Reporting Requirements:**

Facilities should maintain compliance with Federal and State COVID-19 testing reporting requirements. See resources below for further information:

- Federal: <https://www.fema.gov/news-release/2020/04/10/coronavirus-covid-19-pandemic-hhs-letter-hospital-administrator>
- State: <https://cv.nmhealth.org/clinicians/>

Category	Contact Intensity	Number of Contacts	Modification Potential	Mitigation Resources
Oriental Medicine (lifestyle modification, herbal medicine)	Low	Low	High	<a href="#">CDC Guidance</a>
Oriental Medicine (acupuncture, moxibustion, manual therapy)	High	Low	Low	<a href="#">Guidance from CCAOM on infection control</a>
Acudetoxification	High	Low	Moderate	<a href="#">Guidance from CCAOM on infection control</a>