

Dear MPAA Members,

As you are aware, Public Health and the Government of Manitoba announced that acupuncture services may resume effective May 4, 2020. The MPAA would like to inform you that re-opening your business is not mandatory and is up to your discretion. You should take whatever time necessary prior to opening to be prepared so that you are able to follow the required public health guidelines. We would like to give some further information and recommendations regarding the public health guidelines previously sent.

As per public health orders, clients must maintain a distance of at least two metres, except when receiving service or for brief exchanges. All businesses will be required to limit occupancy to 50 per cent of normal business levels or one person per 10 square metres, whichever is lower. These requirements will be enforceable under public health orders.

Guidelines:

- Staff, patients or people attending with patients must use the online self-screening tool prior to booking an appointment or entering the clinic
 - o <https://sharedhealthmb.ca/covid19/screening-tool/>
 - o [Screening Tool Shared Health.pdf](#)
 - o Staff must use the self-screening tool daily before coming to work, a check list can be maintained at the central desk to indicate compliance.
 - o Patients and people who may attend with patients should be screened by telephone prior to booking an appointment and should not given an appointment if they have Covid19 or flu-like symptoms. Patients and any person attending the appointment must also complete the self screening tool on the day of their appointment. Upon arrival to the appointment staff should check to see if the patient has completed the online self-screening tool and if there were any issues. Please document in the client's chart that the online self-screening questionnaire was completed.
- Employees and patients must not come into clinic if they are experiencing any COVID-19 or flu like symptoms including fever, cough, shortness of breath/difficulty breathing, sore throat, or body aches.
- Anyone identified as showing symptoms should be directed to call Health Links/Info Sante (204)788-8200.
- Staff should be given information about physical distancing (2 meters apart from others)
- Entry into the business, including lines, are regulated to prevent congestion.

- Businesses must post external signs indicating COVID-19 physical distancing protocols, along with floor markings where service is provided or lines form. At reception desk decals or tape can be placed on floor where client can safely stand to process payment
- Businesses must maintain a single point of entry.
- Waiting room management strategies must be in place:
 - o Remove or block chairs, if possible, to maintain physical distancing.
 - o Clients should wait in car if possible until called in for appointment.
 - o No more than 10 people may gather in common areas.
- Hand sanitizer must be available at the entrance/exit for patient and staff use. All patients and persons attending with patients must sanitize hands upon arrival and exiting clinic. Practitioners must wash hands for 20 seconds with soap and water before and after patient treatment or as necessary.
- Work/service areas are sanitized after each patient, including removal of all linens, clean and disinfect all surfaces (ie. treatment bed, doorknobs and all surfaces that potential contact was made). Remove any clutter or unnecessary objects or items from waiting and treatment rooms. Approved disinfectants are Lysol wipes, or Javex (Bleach). Bleach can be diluted with water such as 5 tbsps bleach to 16 cups water or a smaller quantity of 4 teaspoons bleach to 4 cups water. All surfaces must be clean prior to disinfecting.
- Washrooms have frequent sanitization and a regime for business sanitization is in place.
- Magazine racks and toys are removed and play areas in waiting rooms are closed.
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
 - o Practitioners must wear procedure face masks for any interactions with patients (assuming patients have no symptoms/COVID not suspected). Masks can be worn for the entire day and then disposed in garbage, unless soiled, wet or damaged. Use of gloves and gowns are not required unless in contact with blood etc. as per routine practices.
 - o Staff should maintain physical distance of 6ft from patients by staying behind counter/desk if possible. Staff should limit exchange of paperwork between reception and patients. Staff must wear procedure face masks for any direct patient encounters.
- Cashless or no-contact payment should be used to the greatest extent possible. It is preferred to use e-transfer or debit/credit card transactions for payment when possible.

Also, this is a reminder that members must not make any claims regarding the use of Chinese herbal preparations in the treatment, prevention or cure of COVID 19 that may mislead the public. Health Canada has not approved any product to prevent, treat or cure COVID 19. Selling unauthorized health products or making false or misleading claims to prevent, treat or cure COVID 19 is illegal in Canada.

Please feel free to contact the MPAA board with any concerns or questions regarding your re-opening plans and safety.

Please see link below for further details.

<https://www.gov.mb.ca/covid19/restoring/phase-one.html>

Best Regards,
MPAA Board Members