



## **SOUTH DAKOTA BOARD OF CHIROPRACTIC EXAMINERS**

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March 26, 2020

### **COVID-19 Statement**

The South Dakota Chiropractic Board of Examiners will continue to work with the Department of Health and any state ordered restrictions on chiropractic practices. The Governor's Executive Order signed on March 23, 2020 does not directly affect private chiropractic practices. We stand behind the statement issued by the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Board that doctors of chiropractic are essential healthcare providers, ready to serve their communities both in daily care and in times of urgent need.

The Board recommends that all chiropractic practices exercise great care in treating and screening patients, follow CDC guidelines and take extra precautions to keep your patients, employees and yourselves protected.

Some of our office recommendations, but not all inclusive, are as follows:

- Screen patients before they come in asking if they have a cough, fever or shortness of breath. If answer is yes, tell them to call their primary care provider. The same protocol should be followed if a temperature is found while in your clinic.
- Patients should be asked if they've traveled out of the state or country in the past two weeks. If the answer is yes, they need to follow the travel guidelines available through the CDC.
- Distance waiting room chairs to six feet apart if patient is not able to be taken to a treatment room immediately upon arrival
- Limit number of patients in your clinic at one time – perhaps have them stay in their cars until they are ready to be seen
- All things that patients can touch in waiting areas and treatment rooms should be removed i.e. take vitamins off the shelves where people can touch the bottles as well as any other items such as pillows, insoles, etc., remove magazines
- Sanitize all areas of the treatment rooms after each patient as well as any rehab equipment that may be used

Chiropractors, Chiropractic Assistants and staff are a part of the healthcare community and have a responsibility in the prevention and mitigation efforts during this pandemic and are also in high risk categories for both transmission and contraction of the coronavirus. Chiropractors have a responsibility to manage the urgent needs of their patients during this crisis, however, must abide by local county or city orders that are more stringent than orders issued by the state or federal governments.

This is a challenging and evolving situation but we will all get through this together.

Respectfully submitted,

*Kathleen Deutsch, DC*

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President

South Dakota Board of Chiropractic Examiners

KD: 

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