

COVID-19 Guidance for Chiropractors

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[Effective April 20, 2020] COVID-19 Guidance for Chiropractors- Full Chiropractic Services in Colorado Expected to Resume on April 27, 2020

On April 20, 2020, Governor Polis held a press conference indicating that Executive Orders D 2020-009 and 027 would be permitted to expire on April 26, 2020 without further extension. Orders 2020-009 and 027 mandate cessation of all elective or non-essential treatment, surgeries, and procedures and mandate inventory of personal protective equipment. These Orders ["PPE Orders"] have impacted and limited the practice of chiropractic, despite chiropractic care being deemed a critical service.

Under the existing guidance from the Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies ["DORA"], chiropractors may only treat patients on a case-by-case and patient-by-patient basis. Chiropractic procedures are permitted when **"an injury or illness is at risk of progression or the patient's health is at risk of rapid deterioration."** In-person wellness and maintenance visits or otherwise non-emergent visits are prohibited under the current guidance, but Governor Polis has signaled that non-elective procedures may proceed on April 27, as long as practitioners implement certain restrictions, including compliance with Executive Order D 2020-039, which was issued on April 17, 2020. Order 039 requires critical service providers, including chiropractors and their staff, to wear "medical or non-medical cloth" face coverings that cover the nose and mouth while working. Order 039 also strongly suggests that employers provide gloves to their staff, and that providers and staff use of gloves while working. That Order is effective through May 17, 2020, and may be extended past that date.

For questions on re-opening your practice, expanding your patient schedule, or otherwise making a decision regarding your practice, please contact Katherine Otto, a Partner at Messner Reeves LLP, who has extensive experience advising Colorado chiropractors.