

**Mission:**

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



**Ron DeSantis**  
Governor

**Scott A. Rivkees, MD**  
State Surgeon General

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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## **Important Massage Therapy Updates for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)**

May 27, 2020

### **Massage Therapists, Establishments are Health Care Practitioners**

Massage therapists and massage establishments licensed under Chapter 480, Florida Statutes, are health care practitioners as defined in Section 456.001(4), Florida Statutes. Massage performed by a licensed massage therapist is a health care service. The operation of a massage establishment is providing a health care service. On April 29, 2020, Governor DeSantis issued Executive Order 20-112, authorizing health care practitioners, including massage therapists and massage establishments, to return to practice during Phase One.

### **Local Rules or Requirements**

The Governor's Office of Communications issued answers to [frequently asked questions](#) to accompany Executive Order 20-112, which state "**local authorities may adopt requirements directly on businesses, operations or venues that may be stricter than the Executive Order**" and "**the Governor's Executive Orders do not contain a preemption on local rules where those rules restrict or close businesses or buildings.**" If you are concerned about local rules or requirements, we encourage you to contact your local authorities.

### **Practice Standards for Massage Therapy and Personal Protective Equipment**

[Guidelines for Practice with COVID-19 Considerations](#) published May 19, 2020, by the Federation of State Massage Therapy Boards, addresses standard precautions and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) protocols and adapts them to the specific practice environment of massage and bodywork. Whenever possible, these guidelines reflect specific CDC recommendations. They are intended to provide guidance on facility cleanliness and sanitation, policies and procedures, and massage practitioner hygiene.

### **Professional Resources**

Additional resources from a cross-section of massage professions associations that are active in the massage community on local, state, and national levels are below.

- [Reopening Resources for Massage Therapists \(AMTA\)](#)
- [Back to Practice – Moving Forward During Uncertainty \(ABMP\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Financial Resources for Massage Therapists \(AMTA\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Update from Florida State Massage Therapy Association \(FSMTA\)](#)
- [Information for Healthcare Professionals about Coronavirus \(CDC\)](#)