



KENTUCKY BOARD OF SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY

Andy Beshear
Governor

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Kerry B. Harvey
Cabinet Secretary

MEMORANDUM FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TO: All Licensees and Applicants for Licensure
FROM: Kentucky Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology
RE: Executive Order 2020-243
DATE: March 25, 2020

On March 6, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear declared by Executive Order 2020-215 that a State of Emergency of the public health exists in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. On March 18, 2020, Governor Andy Beshear issued Executive Order 2020-243. This Executive Order encourages all citizens of the Commonwealth to take all feasible measures to engage in appropriate social distancing to prevent the spread of COVID-19, in accordance with guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Kentucky Department of Public Health. EO 2020-243 orders all boards to take actions necessary to ensure appropriate social distancing and states that any state statute or regulation that conflicts with the provisions of EO 2020-243 is suspended. These executive orders have a direct implication on the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology's regulation on telehealth services, 201 KAR 17:110. Please note that these changes are only in place during the State of Emergency announced in EO 2020-215 and will expire when EO 2020-215 is rescinded.

Pursuant to EO 2020-215 and EO 2020-243, the Board is clarifying that the following provisions are suspended, pursuant to Executive Order 2020-243, during the State of Emergency contained in Executive Order 2020-215 as related to COVID-19:

1. 201 KAR 17:110, Section 2. Client Requirements: Under Section 2, the provision that a practitioner-patient relationship shall not commence via telehealth is suspended. During the State of Emergency contained in Executive Order 2020-215, speech-language pathologists and audiologists **may** commence relationships with patients via telehealth. No initial in-person consultation is required.
2. 201 KAR 17:110, Section 2. Client Requirements: Since licensees are no longer required to conduct the initial, in-person meeting, the requirements of the initial, in-person meeting with the client found in Section 2(1) through Section 2(5), are suspended.

Licensees engaging in telehealth or telepractice should be aware that they must: “Limit the telepractice to the licensee’s scope of practice;” “Maintain continuing competency or associate with a group who has experience in telehealth deliver of care;” “Use methods for protecting health information which shall include authentication and encryption technology;” “Limit access to that information to only those necessary for the provision of services or those required by law; and” “Ensure that confidential communications obtained and stored electronically cannot be recovered and accessed by unauthorized persons when the licensee disposes of electronic equipment and data.” 201 KAR 17:110, Section 3(1)-(5).

Should you have any questions please contact the Board Administrator, Megan Norton, at SLPA@ky.gov.

Sincerely,



Christina LaCharite

Board Chair

Dated: March 25, 2020