

## MEMORANDUM

**Date:** May 1, 2020

**From:** Anne Head, Director, Office of Professional and Occupational Regulation (OPOR)

**Re:** Licensed Massage Therapists

The Governor's recently released plan, Restarting Maine's Economy (<https://www.maine.gov/covid19/restartingmaine>) introduced a phased plan for resuming business operations and activities. These stages allow time to assess the effectiveness of health and safety precautions and to give businesses a predictable time frame to plan for opening.

The Governor's Plan allows certain health care services to reopen in Stage One. This includes: "Health care from Maine licensed providers, with a recommendation that they prioritize care for patients with time-sensitive conditions; assure the safety of patients, staff, and communities; manage the use of essential resources such as personal protective equipment and testing supplies; and pace reopening services to the level of community COVID-19 activity, maintaining capacity in our hospitals for potential outbreaks." Reopening is optional and subject to the provider's adoption of safety recommendations in the Maine DHHS COVID 19- Guidance for Health Care Providers ("DHHS Guidance") <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/documents/coronavirus/COVID-19-Guidance-for-Health-Care-Providers-043020.pdf>.

The DHHS Guidance includes massage therapy. Massage therapy services that are offered pursuant to the DHHS Guidance need to comply all of the requirements of the DHHS Guidance and the referenced US CDC Infection Control Guidance for Health Care Professionals about COVID-19 <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-control.html>.

Please note: Maine's massage therapy licensing statute does not include a definition of, or reference to, medical or health care massage and, therefore, we cannot give advice on whether or not your services fall within the DHHS Guidance.

Stage 3 of the Governor's plan is tentatively set for July 1<sup>st</sup> and includes: "[p]ersonal services such as spas, tattoo and piercing parlors, and massage facilities, among others."

If you have business related questions, you should refer to the Department of Economic and Community Development's website which includes information which may be helpful to you. <https://www.maine.gov/decd/>

We understand the frustrations and economic challenges you are facing during this public health crisis and thank you for your efforts to keep yourself and your clients safe.

Anne L. Head  
Director, OPOR