

**COVID-19 UPDATE: 5/20/2021**  
**Mount Olivet Counseling Service (MOCS)**

The Counseling Service is excited to slowly begin offering a hybrid of in-person and teletherapy sessions, in a manner that prioritizes the health and safety of our clients, staff and families. Many staff and clients have received COVID-19 vaccinations, which we encourage, moving us even closer to this goal.

Effective 5/14/21, MN Governor Walz has removed the statewide indoor mask mandate. ***Due to the close proximity of client and therapist, Mount Olivet Counseling Service will require clients coming into our offices to wear a mask for the foreseeable future as we continue to assess community risk.***

Your therapist may or may not be offering in-person sessions; we encourage you to ask. Many clients have come to prefer telehealth sessions, and we are also focusing first on our clients with the highest needs (i.e., limited access to telehealth appointment options, or other clinical indicators that reinforce the need for in-person sessions.)

**With the return of limited in-person sessions, our office is taking the following precautions to protect our clients, staff and their families, and help slow the spread of the coronavirus:**

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- We ask all clients to review and sign our Informed Consent and Liability Waiver, which we will provide.
  - We ask clients to take their temperature and not enter the building if you suspect COVID, cold or flu symptoms or exposure. Staff will do the same. If you wish to cancel for this reason, we won't charge you our normal cancellation fee.
  - We reserve the right to ask clients who appear to be ill, to leave and reschedule their appointment at a later date.
  - Staff and clients are expected to wear masks with complete coverage of nose and mouth. We will have masks on hand if needed.
  - Office seating in the therapy rooms has been arranged for physical distancing.
  - We schedule appointments at intervals to minimize the number of people onsite. We ask all clients to wait in their cars or outside until no earlier than 5 minutes before their appointment times. Waiting area use is discouraged.
  - Only client/s may enter the building, and 1 parent if the client is a minor child.
  - We ask that scheduling and payments be completed online/via phone.
  - We ask that paperwork be completed online, or dropped off in our secure mailbox.
  - Hand sanitizer is available in the therapy rooms, and entry area.
  - Your therapist may use a different, larger room that offers greater distancing options.
  - Door knobs, pens and other areas that are commonly touched are thoroughly sanitized.
  - We're happy to see you too! But hugging/hand-shaking is not permitted.
  - Water and tea service is currently suspended.
  - Sessions will be resumed via teletherapy if any COVID-like, cold or flu symptoms or exposure are suspected, and returned to in-person after being symptom-free for 3 days.
  - We ask that you inform your therapist immediately if you suspect COVID symptoms or exposure, to support our contact-tracing efforts.
  - You will take steps between appointments to minimize your exposure to COVID-19.

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***We are closely monitoring and following CDC and MN Dept. of Health guidelines, and will continue to provide updates regarding any change to services.***

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