

# NJ Division of Consumer Affairs

- <https://www.njconsumeraffairs.gov/COVID19/Documents/FAQ-Telehealth.pdf>

# Professional Boards and Committees licensing and certifying mental health practitioners

- Board of Psychological Examiners
- Board of Social Work Examiners
- Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
- Professional Counselor Examiners Committee
- Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

# Telehealth and telemedicine

N.J.S.A. 45:1-61 – 45:1-66, enacted in 2017.

Boards and committees have, or soon will have, regulations

“Telehealth” is the use of information and communications technologies, including telephones, remote patient monitoring devices, or other electronic means, to support clinical health care, provider consultation, patient and professional health-related education, public health, health administration, and other services, as allowed by New Jersey law.

# Telemedicine

The delivery of a health care service using electronic communications, information technology, or other electronic or technological means to bridge the gap between a health care provider who is located at a distant site and a patient who is located at an originating site, either with or without the assistance of an intervening health care provider, as allowed by New Jersey law, except that “telemedicine” does not include the use, in isolation, of audio-only telephone conversation, electronic mail, instant messaging, phone text, or facsimile transmission.

Providers may use technologies or devices to deliver telehealth and telemedicine.

During the state of emergency and public health emergency related to COVID-19, relaxation of the usual technological requirements for providing telehealth and telemedicine.

Providers may now use a broader range of communication tools, including audio-only telephone or video technology commonly available on smart phones and other devices.

Examples:

Permitted: Zoom, Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts video,

Not permitted: public facing technology: TikTok or Facebook Live.

While using technologies, ensure that communication tools allows provider to meet the applicable standard of care.

Providers must take reasonable steps to avoid unauthorized disclosure of client health information.

Providers must maintain client records.

Dept of Human Services Office of Civil Rights issued:

**Notification of Enforcement Discretion for Telehealth Remote Communications During COVID-19 Nationwide Public Health Emergency.**

## Obtaining consent via telehealth

A patient/client may give written or oral consent, and may do so in a digitized format, to the provider via telehealth. This consent must be documented in the patient/client record.

## During COVID Emergency

Out-of-State providers can obtain an accelerated temporary license in New Jersey to provide care in person or using telehealth. If granted, good for 180 days, with possibility of 180-day extension.

Certain licensure requirements are waived, including fees.

An individual applying for a specific license, certificate of registration or certification in New Jersey must have a corresponding current license, certificate of registration or certification (in good standing) in another State to be eligible.



Note: Out-of-State providers who have a pre-existing relationship with a New Jersey client but who do not hold a New Jersey license may be permitted to use telehealth to continue to provide care for the patients/clients in New Jersey during the COVID-19 emergency.