

Code of Safe Practice 2020

Addenda COVID 19

Disclaimer

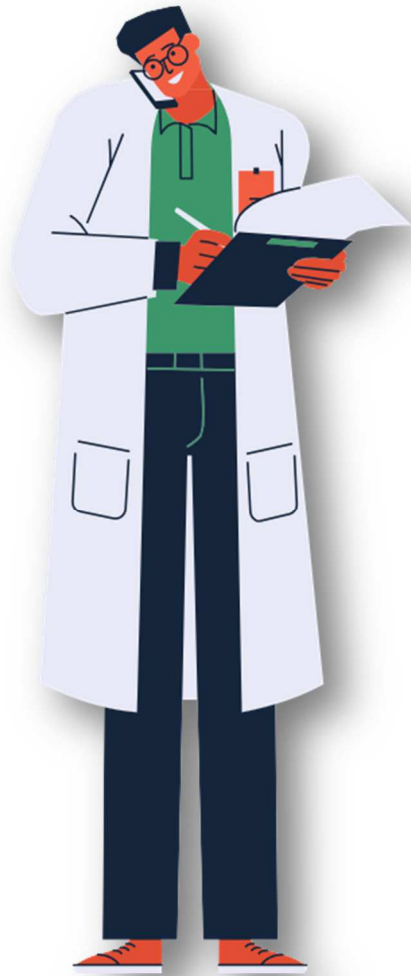
As the COVID-19 pandemic is an evolving situation, the guidelines in this document are subject to changes regarding the national health authorities and should be updated accordingly. Any acupuncturists who plan to reopen their clinics must follow the ETCMA guidelines approved by ETCMA Executive Committee, in addition to other national regulations, standards and policies.

In the event of a discrepancy between the Guidelines and the directives of national public health authorities, the directives of the provincial public health authority take precedence.



The clinic

- Outline and implement cleaning and disinfect protocols.
- Display in a visible way the new rules and also infographics concerning correct hand washing, mask wearing, personal protective equipment use and removal and any other information that you find useful.
- Clean and sanitize treatment cabinets before and after each appointment.
- Give preference to disposable personal protection equipment. If not possible after each use safeguard individually the equipment and then wash it at a high temperature (above 60°C) with regular laundry soap.
- Remove all non-essential objects from common areas such as magazines or flyers. Implement the use of foot-operated waste bins.
- Promote regular air renovation and ventilation in all rooms.
- A/C filters should be object of regular cleaning and sanitation by certified company. Do not use the air recirculation option.



Scheduling

- All appointments should be pre-scheduled and one should protract them in order to minimize patient waiting and the number of people in the clinic at any given time. If or when not possible the safe distance of 2 meters should be observed.
- On the day prior to the appointment the patient should be contacted in order to discard any Covid-19 associated symptoms such as cough, fever and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing. It's also recommended to ask the patient to present himself with the minimum accessories possible and alone.



Patient screening and education

Before allowing the patient to enter the clinic you should ask him these questions:

- Do you have current symptoms of Covid-19 such as cough, fever, shortness of breath? (these are the most common ones, one should get information concerning the other ones.)
- Do you had any unprotected close contact with individuals who have a confirmed or presumptive diagnosis of Covid-19?

If you a get a Yes on any of these questions you should cancel the appointment and counsel the patient to contact the national health system.

The patient's body temperature should also be screened before entering the clinic.



The provider

- Mandatory use of surgical mask when attending patients or interacting with anyone other than the clinic staff.
- Do not reuse masks and replace it whenever it is soiled or wet. Use surgical gloves whenever possible.
- Wash or sanitize your hands before and after appointments. Make a habit of having a clinic use outfit.
- Monitor your body temperature at least 2 times a day.
- Stop your practice if you experience any COVID-19 related symptoms.



After the appointment

- Give preference to no-cash payments such as online payment or the use of credit/debit card contactless option.
- Sanitize the merchant terminal after each use. Use electronic receipts whenever possible.
- Thoroughly clean and disinfect any surface area the patient may have come in contact with using a health authority approved disinfectant.

This addend is based on the Code of Safe Practice – COVID-19 (2020) of
the Instituto Van Nghi – Portugal.