

The World Health Organization has announced a global pandemic in response to COVID-19. In order to ensure our First Nations clients continue to have mental health counselling services available, we would like to offer sessions through telehealth. This aligns with the position held by the College of Alberta Psychologists in supporting/promoting telepsychology as an option as a means of reducing the risk of exposure for both clients/providers. This approach will be implemented as soon as possible, and used in the future with approval from the regional office for emergencies (wildfire/floods) and pandemics.

At this time, we are seeking registered mental health counselling professionals who are interested in providing emergency services (please note, this service provision would be in addition to any services provided through a contract) via telehealth for a minimum of ½ day per week. The maximum service provision (per week) would be five days.

If you are interested, please clearly indicate in your response the specific day(s)/time that you are interested in providing services. Should we decide to employ you as an 'as and when' emergency provider, we will contact you with further details. The expectation is that our regional office will receive requests for telehealth, and coordinate appointments.

All Guidelines and policies would be status quo and are outlined in the [NIHB Guide to Mental Health Counselling Services](#), which includes a reference to ACPRO material on providing services through telepsychology. In place of a client's signature on a hard copy document, we are willing to accept a screenshot verifying the session has taken place, and if possible an email from the client confirming their attendance.

Should this be of interest, please email [marie-jose.morgadinho@canada.ca](mailto:marie-jose.morgadinho@canada.ca) with notation of your provider agreement with NIHB (community contract or fee for service), also include your availability.

Please note, if you are not currently registered with NIHB but are interested in providing services, we can provide you with the required documentation and assist you in the process of registering.