

Inside this issue

Telehealth and Occupational Therapy	1 & 2
Licensing Statistics Update on AOTA/NBCOT Interstate Compact	1
Important Information—COVID	2
Face Coverings and Masks	3
Meet Ning Barfield, OT	3

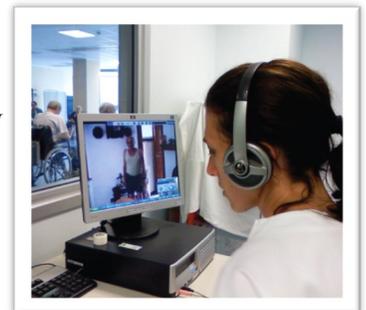
Telehealth and Occupational Therapy

Below is the WAC language for occupational therapists (OTs) and occupational therapy assistants about providing telehealth. OTs and OTAs are expected to follow the laws and rules regarding telehealth ([WAC 246-847-176](http://www.wac.wa.gov/246-847-176)).

1) "Telehealth" means providing occupational therapy via electronic communication where the occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant and the patient are not at the same physical location.

(2) An occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant using telehealth to provide therapy to patients in Washington must be licensed to provide occupational therapy in Washington.

(3) Licensed occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants may



Continued on page 2

License Statistics (then and now)

Occupational Therapists

Apr. 2020	3989
Oct. 2020	3930

Occupational Therapy Assistants

Apr. 2020	1219
Oct. 2020	1171

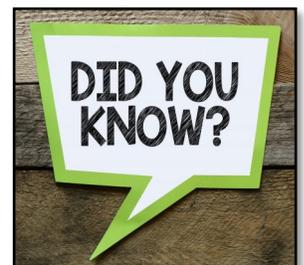
Board Members

Sunny Anderson, OTA, Chair
Mary Spores, OT
Walter Gruenwald, OT
Ning Barfield, OT
Di Irons, Public Member

UPDATE: AOTA/NBCOT Occupational Therapy Licensure Compact Initiative Update

The Drafting Team for the Occupational Therapy Compact met in late February 2020 to begin writing a draft occupational licensure compact for the OT profession. These discussions were informed by recommendations developed by the project Advisory Group over the course of 4 months beginning in October 2019. The Drafting Team for the Occupational Therapy Compact finalized the draft compact in April 2020 and the document is now ready for stakeholder feedback.

A robust stakeholder review process is crucial for the success of interstate compact development. The Council of State Governments (CSG) will solicit comments on the draft Occupational Therapy Compact for an 8- to 10-week period. The draft compact will be vetted by state licensing boards, state legislators, state legislative staff, state membership organizations, and OT practitioners. The project Drafting Team will analyze the comments received and make changes to the draft compact as warranted.



For more information available visit: <https://www.aota.org/Advocacy-Policy/State-Policy/StateNews/2020/Licensure-Compact-Initiative-Update.aspx>

Telehealth and Occupational Therapy

(cont. from page 1.)

provide occupational therapy via telehealth following all requirements for supervision and standard of care, including those defined in chapters 18.59 RCW and 246-847 WAC.

(4) The occupational therapist or occupational therapy assistant must identify in the clinical record that the occupational therapy occurred via telehealth.



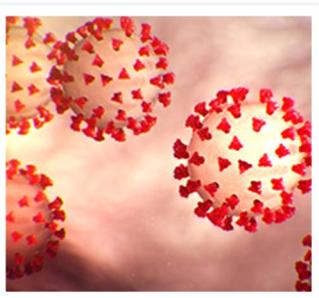
[Click here to apply to become a board member](#)

AOTA Resource List on Telehealth

Wanting more information on telehealth? AOTA has gathered a list of resources available for practitioners. To help all OT practitioners, educators and students navigate through this uncertain time, they have lifted member only access to this list. You can access the list at:

<https://www.aota.org/Practice/Manage/telehealth.aspx>

Important Update



The Washington State Department of Health is no longer offering in-person customer service until further notice. You can still access some services such as [vital records](#) or [health care licensing services](#) online, by phone, or via email. For more information about other services still available, call our office at 360-236-4501 or 800-525-0127 during regular business hours. Please note: Normal turnaround times may be delayed as department staff members are helping to support the COVID-19 response.

The next Occupational Therapy Practice Board Meeting is scheduled to be held January 22, 2021.

Updated meeting information can be found on the program's webpage at:

<https://www.doh.wa.gov/LicensesPermitsandCertificates/ProfessionsNewReneworUpdate/OccupationalTherapist/BoardMeetings>

Face Coverings and Masks

There are three public orders that combine to emphasize the importance of wearing masks and to encourage people to wear them in public places. When more Washingtonians wear face coverings in public the combined effect can greatly reduce transmission of COVID-19 from person to person, saving lives and helping us open the economy safely and wisely.

The workplace order: Washington employers are required to ensure workers are wearing face coverings at work in almost all situations. Employers must provide face coverings if workers do not have them; employers are responsible to comply with this order, and the Department of Labor & Industries enforces it.

The general public order: This order from the secretary of health requires Washingtonians, with some exceptions, to wear face coverings in public spaces (indoors in most situations, and outdoors when proper physical distancing can't be maintained). People are individually responsible to comply with this order.



The governor's order for customers in businesses: This order from Governor Jay Inslee says businesses cannot allow customers to enter their premises without face coverings. Other accommodations can be offered for customers who cannot wear masks. Businesses, with the help of local law enforcement if needed, are responsible to comply with this order

Reader Input

We want to hear from you. If you would like to read about something specific, [please let us know.](#)

Meet Luningning (Ning) Barfield, OT

Ning is an Occupational Therapist who has resided in Federal Way, WA since 1994. Ning graduated from Green River Community College and was certified as an occupation therapy assistant (COTA) in 1999. She received her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Washington Tacoma in 2003. She then received her Master's Degree in occupation therapy from Puget Sound University and was licensed as an occupation therapist (OTR/L) in 2013.



Ning has 21 years experience working in the occupational therapy field in Washington state. She was appointed to the Washington State Occupational Therapy Practice Board in 2020.

Apart from work, Ning was involved in the U.S. Naval Academy Parent's Club and the Boy Scouts for many years. She is an avid gardener and cook. Ning continues to reside in Federal Way with her husband, Jack, her dog, Molly, and cat, Drake. Their son, Jay, resides in Boston, MA.

Content provided by: Ning Barfield)