

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN- STAGE 3 (Gradual re-opening)

The Provincial Health Officer has decided that Speech Language Pathologists can begin to resume in-person practice in a way that promotes safe care to clients and prevents the spread of the virus. In-person services must only proceed when the anticipated benefits of such services outweigh the risks to the client and the registrant.

This safety plan is based on the guidelines of the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC; the BC CDC guidelines for Community Based Health Professionals and for Childcare Settings; and the Worksafe BC Protocols for Health Professions.

Social Distancing

Our primary method for keeping our clients and our staff safe from COVID-19 exposure will be maintaining 2 m (6 feet) social distancing between individuals. To facilitate this we have implemented the following:

- 🗨️ Therapy rooms are stripped down to essential equipment and materials only.
- 🗨️ Rooms will be arranged to allow the therapist and client to remain 2 m apart. If this distance cannot be maintained both therapist and client must wear non-medical masks.
- 🗨️ Appointments will be staggered to avoid too many people moving between rooms at once.
- 🗨️ No more than 2 sessions will take place at the same time.

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

- 🗨️ Please call the office when you arrive. Your therapist will come meet you at the door when they are ready for you.
- 🗨️ Our waiting room is closed. Parents are welcome to wait in their car or on our patio.
- 🗨️ Clients (and/or parents) must answer COVID-19 screening questions and each client's temperature will be taken with a no-contact thermometer.
- 🗨️ Each client will be required to hand sanitize, and then move to their assigned therapy room.
- 🗨️ Pick up will be at the same door, 10 minutes prior to the end of therapy session.
- 🗨️ Appointment times will be staggered to avoid crowding at the door and to allow for cleaning procedures. Please be prompt or your appointment may need to be rebooked.
- 🗨️ If you need to make a payment, please let the therapist know, and they will arrange it.

Sickness/Illness Symptoms

No client or staff may attend if they are displaying possible symptoms of any illness.

- 🗨️ Staff must complete a self-screening using the [BC COVID-19 app and self-assessment tool](#) and a temperature check **prior to starting work each day**.
- 🗨️ If a client becomes ill during therapy session, they will be provided with a mask sent home.
- 🗨️ If you feel ill you are directed to call 8-1-1, or use the the [BC COVID-19 app and self-assessment tool](#)

- 🗨️ **Parents have a responsibility to arrange pick up for their child immediately**
- 🗨️ If staff fall ill during a therapy session, they will self-isolate as soon as possible and parents of children will be called immediately.
- 🗨️ Clients will be encouraged to use a tissue to cover coughs and sneezes, and to avoid touching their faces.

Personal Protective Equipment

PPE in the form of masks and gloves is not required when social distancing of 2 m is maintained.

- 🗨️ If staff need to physically approach clients for their safety, staff will be wearing non-medical masks
- 🗨️ If clients have personal masks, they are encouraged to wear them.
- 🗨️ Child-sized masks can be provided if necessary.

Cleaning

We are using a non-toxic, unscented, anti-viral sanitizing solution.

- 🗨️ All high-touch surfaces (e.g. switches, taps, door knobs) are already sanitized twice a day.
- 🗨️ The therapy room will be sanitized after each therapy session.
- 🗨️ All materials used will be sanitized before reuse.
- 🗨️ Any surface that becomes contaminated with bodily fluids will be immediately sanitized.
- 🗨️ The washroom will be sanitized after each use.

Handwashing

As always, clients will be required to wash or sanitize their hands:

- 🗨️ Upon entry and leaving
- 🗨️ after using the washroom
- 🗨️ after wiping their nose with tissues
- 🗨️ before and after using their water bottle