

COVID-19 SAFETY PLAN

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 the WorkSafe BC Protocols for Health Professions. We use a multi-layered system of defense against transmission of viruses for your protection.

Vaccination

- All of our staff are fully vaccinated. We encourage all of our clients to get vaccinated, as this is the best way to protect against serious illness.

Personal Protective Equipment

- All staff and clients are required to wear a triple layer or N95 face mask over their mouth and nose. Masks will be provided if you do not have one.
- We recognize that some of our clients are not able to wear a mask. In that case, we have plexiglass shields for the therapy tables, and/or face shields as extra layers of protection.

Social Distancing

We will try to maintain 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.
- Appointments will be staggered to avoid too many people moving between rooms at once.
- Where necessary or requested we are also offering teletherapy sessions.

Ventilation

- We keep our HVAC system running on high to keep filtered air circulating and regularly refresh the indoor air with open doors (when weather permits).

Drop Off/Pick Up Procedures

- 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.

Cleaning

- We are using a non-toxic, unscented, hospital grade 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 will be sanitized before reuse.
- Any surface that becomes contaminated with bodily fluids will be immediately sanitized.

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

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](#) **prior to starting work each day.**
- If a client becomes ill during therapy session, they will be sent home immediately.
- **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 cover coughs and sneezes, and to avoid touching their faces.
- If you feel ill you are directed to call 8-1-1, or use the [BC COVID-19 app and self-assessment tool](#)