



Shoreline Speech Therapy

In-Person Services during COVID-19: Quick Facts

IN-PERSON vs TELEPRACTICE

Assessments are usually done in person. **Treatment** is done in person or by telepractice.
 We must do a **Risk Assessment** before making the decision together.
 If you'll be seen in person, we must get your written **consent**.



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SCREENING

When you **arrive** for your appointment, you will do a **screening**.
Do not come to the office if you are sick, have been at an exposure site, are awaiting a COVID test result, are a close contact awaiting clearance, or are otherwise required to isolate.



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HOW YOU PROTECT US AND OTHER VISITORS

If you **drive** to the office, stay outside until 5 minutes before your appointment. If you **walk, take a cab, or take the bus** you can come in right away if you wish.

Please be **on time**. We need time between visits to disinfect and limit people in the office.

Wear a **mask** (exceptions: children <2y; children 2-4 who cannot tolerate a mask; people with valid medical reasons). As of December 30, 2021, **masks must have 3 layers**. If you arrive with a 2-layer mask, we will provide you with a 3-layer procedural mask.

Keep **6' distance** as much as possible.

Use **hand sanitizer** as soon as you enter our office (even if you just washed your hands).

Even if you have **one symptom** and are "sure" it's just a cold, **please stay home** so that you don't pass it on to others. Our staff cannot report to work if they have even a single symptom until they have a negative COVID test. This of course impacts other clients' services.

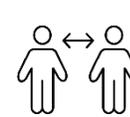
With some exceptions, **only one person should accompany children** to their appointments (exceptions: when coaching is being provided to both guardians or when childcare cannot be arranged for siblings). Adults with cognitive difficulties may have a **support person**.



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HOW WE PROTECT YOU

Touch points in our **office** are regularly disinfected. We disinfect **treatment rooms** and **materials** between every session.

Depending on the type of assessment/treatment, we use a combination of a face **mask**, face **shield**, plexiglass **barrier**, and **gloves**. We frequently disinfect our hands.

We follow Public Health orders and our **sector plan**.

We must keep a **visitor record**. This might be requested by Public Health for contact tracing.

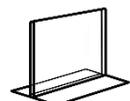
Our staff are required to stay home if they have even one symptom consistent with COVID until they've had a negative PCR test. This means of course that there will be more staff



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absences than usual during the pandemic. **Cancellation notices** from staff go out by email, so please make sure to **check your email before you leave for your appointment.**

We increase **ventilation** by keeping our window and doors open (when appropriate). We also have an air purifier with HEPA filter.



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MASKS AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE THERAPY



When a client needs to see the SLP's mouth (for *all children and most adults*) we wear a **procedural mask that has a clear panel** (ASTM Level 2). Otherwise, we use a regular medical-grade procedural mask when in the office (Level 2). In some situations we wear an N95 mask. We also may use a face shield or plexiglass barrier.

The majority of **clients do not wear a mask** during their sessions. Your SLP will tell you if/when to remove your mask. Parents who accompany their child to their appointments must keep their mask on. Sometimes we give clients and/or parents a mask with a clear panel.

Update regarding the Omicron variant: We are actively following evidence regarding airborne transmission of the Omicron variant. Changes to what our SLPs wear during sessions may include use of N95 masks with a clear panel, or double layering procedural masks with a clear panel. This will depend on what PPE is available, recommendations from Public Health, and best evidence.



REQUIREMENTS FOR SLPs

The requirements for what PPE SLPs must use in community settings are based on requirements and guidelines from Nova Scotia Public Health, the Public Health Agency of Canada, and the Nova Scotia College of Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists. We also follow evidence and guidelines from the World Health Organization and research literature.

If you ever have a question about our COVID precautions, just ask a staff member. We will be happy to explain.

Updated December 30, 2021.