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## Feed Eat Speak COVID-19 Policy

### **Introduction:**

In providing face to face services, the risk of transmission of COVID 19 between Feed Eat Speak therapists and IBCLC's/breastfeeding supporters and their clients should be weighed up against the risk of the child's health, wellbeing and development where speech, language communication and lactation and feeding support can not be delivered.

We work across telehealth platforms, clinics and family homes and will follow the guidelines below.

In line with government guidance and the documents referenced, we will therefore put in place the following measures:

- Issue a COVID-19 risk assessment for each child or setting we work in.
- We will follow cleaning, handwashing and hygiene procedures in line with guidance
- We will take all reasonable steps to maintain a 2m distance in the workplace.
- Where people cannot be 2m apart, we have done everything practical to manage transmission risk

### **Controlling the risks: Creating a COVID- secure environment**

Teletherapy and face to face options are available.

### **Vulnerable Individuals**

- Each family's needs will be risk assessed individually.

### **Symptoms**

- Symptom checking will be in place for therapist and client- including high temperature, new continuous cough, loss or change in normal taste and smell. Please follow government guidelines regarding testing.
- If any member of the client's household is symptomatic, then home visits will not be carried out. Clinic visits can go ahead as long as you and your child are able to demonstrate a negative lateral flow test on the morning of the appointment.
- If any member of the therapists household is symptomatic they will carry out a lateral flow test and if it is negative the session will go ahead. If there is a COVID positive member of the therapists family they can continue to provide face to face services as long as they are fully vaccinated and have a clear lateral flow test.. The therapist must carry out daily lateral flow tests during this period.
- If the therapist or client presents with symptoms, a COVID-19 test will need to be completed. If either tests positive the session will be canceled and until the end of the isolation period.
- The therapist will contact the family 24 hours prior to the session asking them to confirm that no members of the household are displaying symptoms of COVID-19. Therapists will carry out lateral flow tests twice a week.

### **Transmission via surfaces**

- All contact surfaces (such as tables, seats, toilets and door handles) are cleaned in clinic settings between patients
- Surfaces will be cleaned with disinfectant before and after each session. Disposable cloths will be used and then disposed of.
- Where possible families will be asked to provide their own equipment for use in the session.
- Therapy equipment will be cleaned following each session if used
- Material based equipment will be avoided and, following any use, should be washed appropriately.
- Malleable products such as playdoh will be avoided and disposed of following any use.
- Paper based products should be laminated or only used for one client, or where this isn't possible (e.g. assessment booklets) they will be sprayed with disinfectant and not used again for at least 72 hours.
- Therapist and clients will wash hands before and after each session and at any other opportunity where the therapist or client feels it is needed.
- Tissues will be available at all times, all used tissues to be disposed of and will be followed by hand washing.
- The therapist will wear gloves for handling all food and food related equipment and will handwash before and after.

### **Transmission:**

- Freshly washed clothes are to be worn by both the therapist and the client.
- Where there are concerns around the maintenance of social distancing, gloves and aprons will be worn for feeding assessments and treatment. Donning and doffing procedures will be followed as per RCSLT guidance.
- Social distancing will be maintained, wherever possible. However, due to the needs of our children and the nature of our work this will not always be possible.
- Where possible seating positions will be side-to-side rather than face-to-face.
- Parents/carers involved in sessions will maintain social distancing where possible.
- Therapists and parents/carers will wear a clear either a plastic visor/ Friendly Face Mask (with clear panel) or face mask.
- For feeding assessment including oral motor examination and breastfeeding /bottle feeding assessment where there is less than a 2 metre distance the therapist will wear a plastic visor.
- The therapist will need to contact the school regarding their policies and the individual risk assessment in place. If the therapist is allowed on school premises, they will need to discuss any additional measures the school may require to be put in place.

### **Recording consent**

- Parent/Carers will sign, date and return a consent form prior to each face-to-face session.
- If cancellation of the session is needed for COVID 19 related reasons no charge will be made.

### **Reviewing the controls**

- If the therapist or the client feels that there is a risk in the environment before the session commences, the session may be terminated.
- This policy will be reviewed in line with government guidelines and updated as required.

References:

RCSLT Restoring services and keeping everyone safe: Framework to support decision making.

RCSLT Telehealth guidance.

RCSLT guidance on reducing the risk of transmission and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the context of COVID-19.

RCSLT guidance on reducing the risk of transmission and use of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the context of COVID-19.

Joint RCSLT and ASLTIP supplementary guidelines for re-opening of Independent speech and language therapy services.

## COVID-19 Consent Form for Feeding, Speech and Language Therapy and Assessment Sessions

Please read the COVID-19 Policy and sign the following consent form. Please tick each of the boxes to ensure that you have read the relevant information.

	<b>Please tick</b>
I have read the COVID-19 policy and agree that I would like a face to face session for my child.	
I understand that the therapist may also be seeing other children at their homes, nurseries or schools.	
Neither myself or my child is displaying COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, cough, loss of taste/smell, or have received a positive COVID-19 test in the last 10 days	
Neither myself nor my child (nor other members of my household if this is a home session) are extremely clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 and being shielded.	
Handwashing/hand sanitiser will be conducted at the beginning of the session and after the session.	
Myself and my child (any other household members that the therapist may meet if the session is at home) will wear freshly washed clothes to the session.	
I will ensure that social distancing is maintained where possible.	
I acknowledge that this might not be possible at all times due to the nature of the work.	
I will wear a face mask for the duration of the appointment	
	<b>Please tick</b>
Additional points if the session is taking place at home	
I will clean any surfaces in my house to be used prior to the session.	
I will minimise contact between the therapist and additional family members (other than myself and my child).	

Parent/Carer's Signature:

Parents/carer's name:

Child's name:

Date of session: