



Communicable Disease Plan

(May 3, 2022)

Outreach Therapy

Background

Workplaces in BC have been provided direction from the Provincial Health Officer to pivot from a Covid-19 safety plan to an ongoing Communicable Diseases Plan. Previously, the Covid-19 plan involved four phases of operation. These phases of operation will stay documented and ready for use due to the nature of operations at Outreach Therapy, their evidenced effectiveness, and alignment with public health guidelines.

Covid-19 is still with us, as such Outreach Therapy continues to phase in and progress towards more in-person services and increasing the number of staff working from the main office. However, Outreach Therapy is also maintaining use of practices learned from the Covid-19 plan such as hybrid work, continue to offer virtual service options, and limiting close contact interventions. The accompanying policies and protocols that are developed will be directed and informed by the orders, guidelines and notices issued by the provincial health officer and regulatory health profession colleges.

With any phase of operation staff must:

- Follow all guidelines issued by the Provincial Health Officer
- Wash hands frequently with soap and warm water
- Use hand sanitizer whenever soap and warm are unavailable
- Wear masks where and when directed
- Stay at home when sick
- Perform the daily health screen before attending the worksite, document in the contact binder and document all visitors in the contact binder
- Staff must ensure clients complete a health screen before attending an in-person appointment

➔ **CURRENT PHASE OF OPERATION: PHASE 4**

Phase 4 REFLECTS COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PLAN: TBD (80% - 100% of normal physical interactions) this phase will only begin when we have achieved herd immunity/vaccine/treatment and are directed by Public Health to shift to Communicable Disease Plan.

Room Usage: No limit on capacity or usage

In person visits:

- 80-100% of normal interaction
- Preference given to clinic based visits first, then outdoor spaces, limited indoor spaces (public or community based), last preference (very limited use of) – in client's home.

Observe General Disease Exposure Preventative Measures:

- Wear a mask for all in-person client sessions (applies to ages 8 and or where medical limitations), or by clinician assessment.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If you have to cough or sneeze, try to do it into your elbow or a tissue, and then throw out the tissue if used and wash your hands afterwards.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick. If you have a fever, a new cough or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1. If you are not sure whether you should stay home use the self -assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>. You may perform a home-based Covid-19 test.
- Clean and disinfect therapy rooms before and after use.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment and toys
- All staff must perform the daily health check each day before entering the workplace. All staff must sign the contract tracing/ health screen binder upon entering the worksite.
- Clients will be asked to screen for illness before coming to Outreach Therapy. Staff will record all external visitors in the contact binder.
- Staff must follow the protocol for illness and return to work as outlined in the *Outreach Therapy Program Daily Health Screen & Return to Work after Illness Guidelines*

PHASES OF OPERATION 1 -3

PHASE 1

All services performed virtually. No on-site meetings with external parties. All meetings are virtual, staff work from home exclusively.

Phase 1 Services

All staff are working from home with only occasional visits to the Centre as needed for preparing materials, getting resources / equipment.

- Staff are given access to secure remote log-in, cell phone allowance and provided equipment when necessary.
- All services are delivered via tele-rehab
- Necessary equipment is loaned and delivered via safe drop procedures
- No on-site meetings with external parties.
- Outreach hosted meetings with external parties will be hosted virtually.
- Outreach staff will attend all externally hosted meetings virtually - either by phone or teleconference.

Masks: worn in all public spaces in building including halls and washrooms, common office spaces, and any other time where distancing isn't possible.

PHASE 2

This phase will slowly re-introduce physical interactions within our workplace, and we will begin delivering certain services in person. The primary work location for most staff is at home. Phase 2 will allow for the

return of certain clinical and administrative staff based on criteria including: staff preferences, physical accommodations, and physical distancing. Staff who are present in phase 2 are encouraged to blend

working from home and working from the Centre. Other considerations in this phase will be staggering when staff work from the Centre, where they are located and who is working around each other to ensure safe physical distancing and to minimize foot traffic in the building. Limited in-person services may take place in accordance with the criteria described below. Maximum staff in the office = 4 (65% of normal physical interactions).

Treatments spaces have reduced occupancy and limited usage per signage.

Phase 2 Service Provision

Phase 2 services will expand from phase 1 with limited in person sessions. In-person visits may include outdoors at the family home. Staff will continue to:

- Work from home and office (blended)
- Provide tele-rehab services
- No on-site meetings with external parties unless deemed critical.
- Outreach hosted meetings with external parties will be hosted virtually.
- Outreach staff will attend all externally hosted meetings virtually - either by phone or teleconference.

Masks: worn in all public spaces in building including halls and washrooms, common office spaces, and any other time where distancing isn't possible. Masks are required for any kind of in-person client interaction.

Client & family criteria for in-person session(s):

- Family is willing to attend in person session(s)
- In-person services must only proceed when the anticipated benefits of such services outweigh the risks to the client and the Staff member.
- The staff member is accountable and is the person best positioned to determine the need for, urgency, and appropriateness of in-person services.
- Families will be prioritized using clinical judgement and the EIP decision support tool, which considers accessibility, clinical need and risk.

PPE requirements & training for staff:

- A point of Care Risk Assessment will be done for each in person session to determine PPE requirements.
- Staff will don and doff PPE as per guidelines from Work Safe BC and BCCDC.

Health screening of clients, families and staff:

- Families will complete a health screening for all members present and asked to reschedule if presenting with any symptoms of illness
- Staff will complete a daily self-assessment per WorkSafe BC before coming into the office/clinic. Staff will not come to work if showing any symptoms per the health screen.

Infection control procedures:

- Time will be allotted in between sessions to allow for thorough cleaning of therapy room and any items used in session
- Hand sanitizer will be in each room. See guiding documents in policy and procedures for further details
- Appointments will be staggered
- Families will be asked to come on time, not early for their appointments.
- Physical distancing will be used in sessions as able
- Families will be asked to reduce the number of individuals attending appointment (one adult and no siblings)
- Only items that can be sanitized will be used in sessions

PHASE 3

Phase 3: This phase will include additional opportunity for physical interactions, expanded in-person services and a more equal blend of work from home and the use of our office space. Phase 3 will allow for any staff to return to the main office. The main office will not have more than 6 staff in the office at any given time, including staff that normally work in the ECMH office.

Treatments spaces have reduced occupancy and limited usage per signage.

- No on-site meetings with external parties unless deemed critical.
- Outreach hosted meetings with external parties will be hosted virtually.
- Outreach staff will attend all externally hosted meetings virtually - either by phone or teleconference.
- Staff must ensure that they communicate physical distancing procedures to external visitors and adhere to physical distancing requirements.
- Maximum number of clients in large treatment room will be 4 people. (This could be 1 therapist, a caregiver and client and 1 visiting professional.)
- Maximum number in the small treatment room will be 3 people.
- No indoor or outdoor group therapy sessions - group therapy sessions may only occur virtually.

Masks: worn in all public spaces in building including halls and washrooms, common office spaces, and any other time where distancing isn't possible. Masks are required for any kind of in-person client interaction.

Phase 3 Service Provision

- As we move to Phase III, we **will slowly** increase the number of in-person sessions in clinic, and in community, while maintaining virtual visits.
- Any in person session will be decided on using the Point of Care Risk Assessment tool, where the benefit of an in person session outweighs the risks, and where care can only be performed in person.

Outdoor community sessions:

- includes any session done in an outside space at a daycare, outdoor yard at a client's home, or outdoor community space. *Note: no group therapy sessions*
- client must consent to accepting any risks of being in that space

Indoor community sessions (at locations other than Outreach):

- All spaces must be large enough to allow adequate physical distancing **of all persons present**, and will not exceed 4 persons. This might look like: 1 Outreach staff, 1 caregiver, 1 child client, and 1 other professional.
- client must consent to accepting any risks of being in that space

Please note: Outreach Therapy is not providing any in-home or inside daycare visits.

Client & family criteria for in-person session(s) in clinic:

- Family is willing to attend in person session(s)
- In-person services must only proceed when the anticipated benefits of such services outweigh the risks to the client and the staff member
- The staff member is accountable and is the person best positioned to determine the need for, urgency, and appropriateness of in-person services.
- Families will be prioritized using clinical judgement and the Centre for Ability decision support tool, which considers accessibility, clinical need and risk

PPE requirements & training for staff:

- A point of Care Risk Assessment will be done for each in person session to determine PPE requirements.
- Staff will don and doff PPE in accordance with Work Safe BC and BCCDC guidelines.

Health screening of clients/families and staff:

- Families will complete a health screening for all members present and asked to reschedule if presenting with any symptoms of illness; families must disclose if this includes anyone in the home.
- Staff will complete a daily self-assessment per WorkSafe BC before coming into the office/clinic. Staff will not come to work if showing any symptoms per the health screen.

Infection control procedures:

- Time will be allotted in between sessions to allow for thorough cleaning of therapy room and any items used in session
- Hand sanitizer will be in each room. See guiding documents in policy and procedures for further details
- Appointments will be staggered
- Families will be asked to come on time, not early for their appointments.
- Physical distancing will be used in sessions as able

- Families will be asked to reduce the number of individuals attending appointment (one adult and no siblings)
- Only items that can be sanitized will be used in sessions.
- If items are dropped off at homes, the Drop Off Protocols will be followed with drop off of sanitized items, social distancing. Pick up of items will follow social distancing, the use of necessary PPE, and items bagged by a therapist and returned to the Centre for sanitizing.
- Staff will use hand sanitizer in their PPE kit for any community visits outdoors, appropriate community indoor spaces and for drop off /pick up of items.

ROOM USAGE FOR PHASES 1-3

Purpose: To comply with Work Safe BC and Provincial Health Officer directives to mitigate the risk of disease exposure at the work place.

Observe General Disease Exposure Preventative Measures:

- Wear a mask for all in-person client sessions, in common areas and where distancing isn't possible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing; going to the bathroom; and before eating or preparing food.
- If you have to cough or sneeze, try to do it into your elbow or a tissue, and then throw out the tissue if used and wash your hands afterwards.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Stay home when you are sick. If you have a fever, a new cough or are having difficulty breathing, call 8-1-1. If you are not sure whether you should stay home use the self -assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19>. You may perform a home-based Covid-19 test.
- Clean and disinfect therapy rooms before and after use.
- Clean and disinfect all equipment and toys
- All staff must perform the daily health check each day before entering the workplace. All staff must sign the contract tracing/ health screen binder upon entering the worksite.
- Clients will be asked to screen for illness before coming to Outreach Therapy. Staff will record all external visitors in the contact binder.
- Staff must follow the protocol for illness and return to work as outlined in the *Outreach Therapy Program Daily Health Screen & Return to Work after Illness Guidelines*

Room Usage:

- During Phase 2 only 2 people in the office at a time.
- During Phase 3, 6 people in the office at a time.
- Only staff are allowed to enter main office – no other visiting professionals or clients.
- Maintain physical distance at all times when moving within office space or wear mask when unable to maintain 2 metres distance.
- Wash hands as per posted BCCDC guidelines on entering office.

- Disinfect individual work area as needed (desk top, phone, keyboard, chair arms, etc).
- Each desk/work space to have own materials (Kleenex, garbage, pens, pencils etc.) to limit sharing of equipment.
- Each worker to have own reusable gloves for cleaning.
- Plan day so limit use of common equipment (keys, filing cabinets, photocopier, shredder, laminator, stapler, cupboards, remotes, etc).
- Sanitize hands before using common equipment.
- Disinfect any shared surfaces or equipment after use.
- Wash hands before returning to individual work space.

Kitchen Area:

- Only 1 person in kitchen area.
- Wash hands as per posted BCCDC guidelines on entering.
- Disinfect all surfaces touched (counters, fridge door, appliances, taps, etc) before leaving.
- No common use of cutlery, dishes etc.
- Bring snacks, lunch that requires little preparation to limit use of microwave, toaster oven, counter and sink.
- Do not share food or drink.
- Sink is used primarily for washing hands and toys.
- Wash hands before returning to work space.

Resource Room:

- Phase 2: only staff - 1 person at a time. Phase 3: 3 persons in resource room at a time (two staff, or one staff and child). One parent may wait in the alcove area of the resource room during a session.
- Wash hands before entering.
- Disinfect all work surfaces, cupboard handles, door handles, equipment used before leaving.
- Wash hands on return to office.

Large Therapy Room:

- During Phase 2 only 3 people – 1 clinician, client and a parent/guardian.
- During Phase 3 : only 4 people - up to two clinicians, one client and a parent/guardian.
- Gather toys and tools for session into clean bin to take into room and set up room for session.
- Wash hands before entering.
- Wash hands and Don PPE if required based on PCRA and as per BCCDC Instructions prior to meeting family and beginning session.
- Ask clients to wash or sanitize hands prior to entering.
- Maintain physical distancing throughout session or use appropriate PPE if unable.
- After session, Doff PPE as per BCCDC instructions.
- Disinfect all surfaces touched during session (Mats, table tops, mirror, equipment, etc.).
- Clean and wash floor if soiled during session.
- Clean all toys and place in drainer to dry. Sanitized toys placed to dry in large therapy room drainer and toys that need to be rinsed placed to dry in office/kitchen drainer.
- Disinfect toy bin.
- Wash hands on return to office.

ECMH Therapy/Office Room:

- During Phase 2 only 1 person in the office at a time.
- During Phase 3 only 2 people in the office at a time. (e.g. therapist and one client **or** other professional)
- Maintain physical distance at all times when moving within therapy space or wear mask when unable to maintain 2 metres distance.
- Wash hands as per posted BCCDC guidelines on entering office.
- Disinfect individual work area as needed (desk top, phone, keyboard, chair arms, etc).
- Each desk/work space to have own materials (Kleenex, garbage, pens, pencils etc.) to limit sharing of equipment.
- Gather toys and tools for session into clean bin to take into room and set up room for session.
- Wash hands and Don PPE if required based on PCRA and as per BCCDC Instructions prior to meeting family and beginning session.
- Ask clients to wash or sanitize hands prior to entering.
- Maintain physical distancing throughout session or use appropriate PPE if unable.
- After session, Doff PPE as per BCCDC instructions.
- Disinfect all surfaces touched during session.
- Clean and wash floor if soiled during session.
- Clean all toys in Outreach office kitchen area and place in drainer to dry. Sanitized toys placed to dry in observation room drainer and toys that need to be rinsed placed to dry in office/kitchen drainer.
- Disinfect toy bin.
- Wash hands before return to office.

ECMH Resource and Observation Room:

- During Phase 2 and 3 only 1 person in the Observation Room at a time. Or, two people only if from the same household.
- Wash hands as per posted BCCDC guidelines on entering office.
- Disinfect all work surfaces, cabinet handles, door handles, shelves touched/ used before leaving.
- Wash hands upon return to therapy room/office.