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COVID-19 SAFTEY PLAN

As per the safety guidelines set by the BC College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of British Columbia, the Provincial Health Organization, and WorkSafe BC all clients must 1) complete a COVID-19 self-assessment survey and 2) understand the safety protocols implemented at our office prior to their therapy session. These protocols were developed with the goal of reducing the risk of exposure to the virus that causes Covid-19 for the clients and therapists within our clinical setting. The Protocols will be updated as needed.

For up to date information about Covid-19 please visit the HealthLink BC <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca> and The BC Centre for Disease Control <http://covid-19.bccdc.ca>

Workplace Risks

AYU Speech & Language Services provides intensive home, preschool-based, school-based, and clinic-based services for children with speech/language disorders, Autism Spectrum Disorder, and other special needs and their families. We have identified numerous risk factors including:

- The effectiveness of our therapy is dependent on prolonged close physical contact. Examples include physical play including simple sensory games such as tickling, physical (e.g. hand over hand) prompting to support the development of new skills and participation in shared activities, and shared activities involving proximity and the exchange of toys and materials. Sessions range from 1-2 hours and it is expected that therapists will remain within 2-3 feet of the child during this time.
- In our physical clinic, staff see up to 10 individual clients a day. When staff visit preschools and schools, they will work directly with approximately 30 children per school/setting. For staff conducting community or home visits, they may see 3-6 clients in a day.

General Guidelines

- **Decision making process:**
 - In-person sessions will only proceed when the anticipated benefits of such services outweigh the risks to the client and the clinician. These decisions will be made by the clinician ONLY IF the clinician is comfortable considering in person sessions and will involve a discussion with the clients and their families.
- **Disinfecting procedures:**
 - In clinic sessions will be booked a minimum of 15 minutes apart to allow for adequate time to perform the disinfecting procedures.
 - All toys, materials and equipment will be disinfected between clients or used with one client only and disinfected at the end of the day.
 - Phones or iPads used for data recording or timing during a therapy session will be wiped at the end of each session
 - All soft toys and carpets in the clinic space will be replaced with washable alternatives (e.g. gym mats instead of soft carpets for floor play).
 - For clinic sessions, all toys will be sanitized between uses.

- All high-touch surfaces will be sanitized between clients.
- Access to clinic will be limited to a maximum of one parent and one child per therapy space.

Hand Hygiene:

- Staff will be provided with hand sanitizer for use during home, preschool, and school visits and community sessions.
 - Staff will sanitize hands immediately prior to beginning a session and again after the session.
 - Children (and their parents) will begin each session with handwashing. Children will be taken to wash hands once each hour, or after obvious contact between hands and nose/mouth.
 - At preschools/schools, children will be given hand-sanitizer to use before and after their session with the staff member
 - Hand sanitizer will be available in each room of the clinic and additional signs posted to encourage handwashing.
 - Staff will perform hand hygiene (wash with soap and water or use hand sanitizer) upon entering the office, after using the washroom, after breaks, after meals or snacks, after sneezing or coughing, after using a facial tissue and before and after each client.
- **Physical distancing measures:**
 - When the intervention allows, physical distancing will be maintained during sessions.
 - Staff will avoid close greetings like hugs, handshakes, high fives.
 - **Personal Protective Equipment:**
 - When working with clients, therapists will wear a face shield.
 - Face shields will be wiped down after each contact.
 - As facial expressions and facial cues are a critical part of therapy, and as it is anticipated that staff will only be working with healthy children, we will not require the use of masks underneath face shields. However, masks will be provided for any staff who prefers to wear one. If a family requests staff to use masks, we will do so.
 - For table-top activities, in clinic or at schools, there will be the option of using a plexiglass barrier between the therapist and client.
 - **Health screening:**
 - Staff must assess themselves daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, or COVID-19 prior to entering the clinic, <http://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>.
 - Staff will submit a screenshot of their results only if the results are positive for COVID-19 symptoms.
 - Staff are prohibited to conduct sessions if:
 - Directed by Public Health to self-isolate.
 - They have arrived from outside of Canada or have had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case. In this case, they must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.
 - They have had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. They may work remotely, via teletherapy, if appropriate. Symptoms may include fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headache.

- **Other considerations made:**
 - New clients' intake forms will be emailed and filled out prior to session.
 - Some clinicians remain working entirely remotely from home and may continue to provide therapy online.
 - All staff meetings will be online.

Client Guidelines

- **Hand Hygiene:** All clients and their caregivers will perform hand hygiene (wash with soap and water or use hand sanitizer) before meeting with their interventionist at an outdoor or indoor location, after using the washroom, after sneezing or coughing and after using a facial tissue.
- **Physical distancing:**
 - Clients and staff will avoid close greetings like hugs, handshakes, high fives.
 - When the intervention allows, physical distancing will be maintained during sessions.
- **Pre-session screening:**
 - Clients coming to the clinic will complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire prior to their sessions.
 - Clients seen in their homes will complete a COVID-19 screening questionnaire prior to their sessions.
 - All clients will be asked to re-schedule if:
 - Has been directed by Public Health to self-isolate.
 - Has arrived from outside of Canada or who has had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case must self-isolate for 14 days and monitor for symptoms.
 - Has had symptoms of COVID-19 in the last 10 days. Symptoms may include fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headache.
 - Clients seen at daycare, preschool, or school will be assumed to be healthy. AYU Speech & Language Services will accept any protocols the daycare, preschool, and schools use to determine student eligibility for preschool/school attendance as a pre-screen for services
- **Reducing people in clinic:**
 - Clients will attend sessions alone whenever possible. If the client is unable to attend the session alone, then only 1 caregiver may attend session with client.
 - Doors to the clinic space will open 5 minutes before each session.
- **Personal Protective Equipment:** For in clinic sessions, parents will be asked to wear a face mask.
- **Materials/Toys:** If directed by your clinician, your child may use a bin of toys to be used only by your child. We will disinfect the exterior of the bin and the toys before and after each session.
- **Cancellation Fee:** No fee will be charged if clients cancel within 24 hours of their

appointment due to illness and/or signs and symptoms of COVID-19
Any questions or concerns please email Aleana at: ayu.speech@gmail.com