

Policies

Coronavirus Policy

(Updated 17.11.20)

The health and safety of the Kid Sense community (clients, their families and our staff team) is paramount as we seek to protect them from Coronavirus exposure through safe and responsible practice.

Teletherapy services will continue to be offered (for either safety or convenience) in addition to face-to-face assessment and treatment as well as phone appointments.

To help protect all individuals, to be clear and transparent in our communication with our clients and to navigate the multitude of conflicting information about the Coronavirus and its appropriate management, Kid Sense applies the following guidelines in onsite therapy services following the Australian Government Department of Health (<https://www.health.gov.au>) directives as provided by [SA Health](#)

Our CLIENTS

Physical Centre Attendance

- **Illness or Overseas Travel:** Clients who have returned from overseas recently, are feeling unwell with a cough or fever, who have had exposure to someone with a suspected/confirmed case of the virus in the last 14 days, or who have attended a Covid 'hot spot' as updated daily are asked to not attend the centres.
- **Mobile Waiting Room (Car):** Where possible, clients are asked to wait in their cars. Our staff will willingly greet clients at the external doors rather than waiting

in a shared waiting room.

- Teletherapy: For clients who do not wish to attend the centre, face-to-face treatments will happily be altered to TeleTherapy or Phone appointments.

Waiting Rooms

- o Limited Waiting Room Interaction: Client interaction in the waiting room will be minimised as much as possible by asking clients to waiting in their cars/outside where possible. Therapists will greet and return clients to the external doors for their appointment where appropriate. Minimal family attending the therapy appointment is requested.
- o Hand Sanitiser: Hand Sanitiser is provided for client use (and staff use) upon entry to the waiting room for use before and after appointments.
- o Items Removed: All toys, reading and refreshment materials have been removed from the waiting room.
- o Couches: Couches are sprayed with *Glen 20* daily.
- o Surfaces Disinfected: Surfaces are wiped down daily with disinfectant.

Social Interaction

- o Practise social distancing (allowing 1.5 m between yourself and other people), or 2 m² around yourself.
- *Parents may be called upon to attend physical appointments to provide hands-on behaviour management support where therapists may have done this previously.
- o Staff and clients alike are to remain at home if unwell.

Personal Hygiene

- o Cleanse hands very regularly, including before and after appointments using the provided Hand Sanitizer or soap and warm water.
- o Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth) as much as possible.
- o Use a tissue and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues into rubbish bins which are emptied daily.

Our STAFF

Personal interaction

- o For personal hygiene recommendations including:
 - Cleanse hands very regularly, including before and after appointments using the provided Hand Sanitizer or use soap and warm water.
 - Follow the provided hand washing protocol regularly.
 - Avoid touching your face (eyes, nose and mouth) possible.

- Use a tissue and cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of tissues into rubbish bins which are emptied daily.
- o Observe social distancing at all times, excepting where physical danger is evidence of the child in which case in the personal injury to the child is deemed more significant than potential Covid exposure for the brief moment of risk.
- o Incorporate hand washing/hand sanitization into Treatment session. Surface cleaning to occur during sessions as well.

Treatment Rooms

- o Position treatment tables in an elongated manner to allow appropriate social distancing measures (Tables are 120 cm long).
- o Wipe table and chairs used by clients after each appointments and discard the single use cleaning materials into the bin. Rubbish bins are emptied daily.
- o Treatment Rooms: Many typical treatments items have been removed to prevent any contamination, resulting in use of no/few resources. Large items are either disinfected between clients or placed into a tub for cleaning after the appointment.
- o Make appropriate choices of toys to use that will not hold the virus, are easily washable (placed into a tub for cleaning after the appointment) or take home items (e.g. worksheets).
- o Clients are encouraged to bring their own pencils/pencil cases and playdoh if appropriate to treatment

Social Interaction in general

- o Practise social distancing (allowing 1.5 m between yourself and other people), or 2 m² around yourself.
- *Parents may be called upon to physically attend appointments to provide behaviour management where therapists may have done this previously.
- o Notwithstanding this, paediatric therapy is a people-based industry and where the child is in danger of significant physical injury risk, responding to this immediate physical safety takes precedence over observing social distancing.
- o Staff and clients alike are to remain at home if unwell, have attended a Covid 'hot spot' as updated on the daily news, or had contact with a someone known/suspected to have exposure to Covid.
- o Overseas and interstate travel has been banned in Kid Sense staff for the time being.

Social interaction with Colleagues

o *LUNCH BREAKS*: Be mindful of social distancing during lunch breaks (eg adhere to lunch room *Room Capacity* guidelines) so you may need to consider:

- staggered lunch hours
- eat at your desk/in your treatment room
- Take lunch outside.

o *OFFICE SPACE*: Staff will comply with the *Room Capacity* guidelines re number of staff present. Based on variable office areas, therapists may also need to stagger office use.

- With the benefit of personal laptops, staff can use their laptops in their treatment room.
- Therapists may also choose to use their mobile (in place of land lines) in order to observe social distancing during phone appointments taken in their own treatment rooms.

o *STAFF MEETINGS*:

- Discipline group meetings of one site may occur in one room.
- Full Team meetings will occur via Microsoft 'TEAMS' online. This may see each discipline meetings in the one room to 'meet' virtually with another team.

Sick Staff

- As always, staff who have flu-like symptoms should take sick leave as typically appropriate. As per usual, staff will follow standard sick leave procedures as dictated by the Leave Policy.
- Staff must alert the Department of Health and Leadership if they have a confirmed case of Coronavirus.
- If staff have any concerns about their health they are directed to consult their healthcare professional, and follow the directions to contact Coronavirus Testing Clinics at <https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/>

The health and safety of the Kid Sense Community is our greatest priority. Please contact our team on 8272-7522 if you have any questions or concerns.

Contact us today to make an initial enquiry or book an assessment for your child
on 1800 KID SENSE (1800 543 736)

