



# Okanagan Ability Centre

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## Our COVID-19 Safety Plan

We have taken many steps to ensure the safety of our clients and our staff in accordance with WorkSafe BC guidelines and direction from the BC Provincial Health Officer, as follows:

### **Physical Distancing/Limiting Density/Environmental Adaptations**

- Physical access to OAC is by appointment only. Please call the office upon arrival for entry.
- Our staff is working from home when possible and coming into the office in rotating shifts.
- Contact with our clients occurs virtually (via telephone or Zoom) rather than in-person as is appropriate or possible.
- The number of clients seen at OAC at any given time is limited and only one parent or support person can accompany clients on site.
- We have arranged our clinic and developed assessment practices to ensure that a minimum of 2 metres of distance can be maintained between all individuals. In the rare instance when it may not be possible to ensure a minimum of 2 meters of distance, we have introduced plexiglass screens.
- Because we have implemented many safeguards to ensure physical distancing with our clients, we anticipate that PPE such as masks will rarely be needed. Our assessments often require that the examiner and the client can easily see and hear each other, which is challenging when wearing masks. Should the use of a mask be deemed necessary for a specific client or assessment, we will consider the feasibility of introducing PPE, conducting a remote assessment, or rescheduling to a future date when the assessment can be completed in a safe fashion. Masks may be worn by the accompanying support person if desired (e.g., if the support person is not from the same household).

### **Environmental Cleaning & Personal Hygiene**

- We have implemented regular practices for disinfecting “high touch” surfaces such as door handles, light switches, and shared equipment.
- Toys and books have been removed from the OAC waiting areas. Clients are welcome to bring toys or electronic devices from home for their personal use. Water will not be provided, and clients must bring their own filled water bottles.
- We require everyone to clean their hands upon arrival and regularly while at OAC. Hand sanitizer and hand washing facilities are available on site. No hand shaking.
- People are asked to avoid touching their faces and to practice good respiratory etiquette.
- Clients are asked to bring their own pens and pencils to sign documents and complete written work.

### **COVID-19 Risk Management Practices**

- OAC staff and clinicians will stay home if there are risk factors for COVID-19 present. For example, if they are experiencing cold, flu, or COVID-19 symptoms (e.g., fever, chills, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath, sore throat, and new muscle aches or headaches), if someone in their household is experiencing those symptoms, if they have travelled internationally within 14 days, or if they believe they have been exposed to COVID-19.
- If clients are presenting with COVID-19 risk factors as outlined above, they are asked to contact our office to reschedule their appointment. Clients and visitors are required to complete a COVID-19 Risk Factor Checklist upon arrival to OAC. If risk factors are present, their appointment will be rescheduled.
- There is no penalty to clients to reschedule their appointment as related to illness.