

COVID-19 Info & Cedar Therapeutics Plan for Return to Clinical Practice in Respect of Covid-19

This a living document and clinic procedures may change. It is the patient's responsibility to check this document prior to every appointment to ensure that they are aware of and agree to protocols as relevant at the time of their appointment. Last updated Aug 28, 2022.

This plan was developed with the goal of reducing the risk of exposure to the virus that causes COVID-19 for both patients and the practitioner within our clinical setting. Here, we identify the actions that the therapists at Cedar Therapeutics commit to, and that all visiting patients must commit to, in order to resume Massage Therapy services.

The overall aim of these protocols is to reduce potential coronavirus transmission by:

- Required ongoing self-assessment for signs of COVID-19 related illness in both the patient and the therapist
- Reducing all physical, non-treatment related interactions amongst all people within the practice environment
- Hand hygiene requirements
- Avoiding face touching
- Enhanced cleaning protocols
- Appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Meeting professional obligations, particularly related to informed consent and liability insurance.

Self-Assessment for Symptoms of Covid-19: For Patients & Therapists Pre-Screening / Prior to Arrival

- Patients will be informed about their responsibilities at the time of booking or within a day of their appointment. A notice will be placed on the website, and the online booking software will send them a copy of these protocols as part of a Covid-19 specific consent form they will be required pre-read and to sign upon arrival.
- One day prior to their booked appointment, the patient will be required to complete the online BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment tool and to stay home if they experience any symptoms of COVID-19.

The tool can be found here: <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

- The therapist will send a survey that is to be completed by the client within 48 hours of their appointment. The therapist will contact the client prior to their first appointment to review clinic protocols, and future appointments if there are any concerns on the survey that needs to be addressed. Be sure to also fill out the self-assessment tool at <https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>
- The therapist will use the BC COVID-19 Self-Assessment tool herself, daily and commits to canceling all appointments if symptoms appear.
- Symptoms of Covid-19 are similar to other respiratory illnesses and seasonal allergies.

An appointment must be cancelled immediately if either the patient or the therapist presents with even mild symptoms that may be signs of Covid-19 including:

- Fever
- Cough
- Chills
- Shortness of breath
- Sore throat or pain with swallowing
- Stuffy or runny nose
- Loss of sense of smell
- Headache

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- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite

• ***Covid-19 Symptoms may range from mild to severe. Patients are required to cancel appointments if they experience what they determine to be 'just the sniffles,' 'seasonal allergies' or 'just feeling under the weather,' on the day of their appointment.***

- Patients must confirm that they have not been in contact with anyone displaying illness, or signs and symptoms of COVID-19 within 14 days prior to their treatment.
- The patient will be required to sign (in person) a consent and liability waiver with respect to COVID-19 prior to every appointment.
- As a part of the consent form, patients must commit to understanding that while we've taken all possible measures to minimize risk of viral transmission, the nature of massage therapy means that physical distancing is not possible in the treatment room.
- Patients with higher risk profiles and/or weakened immune systems, who are not vaccinated should consider alternatives for care and postpone treatment.
- The therapist and patient must agree that the therapeutic benefit of Massage Therapy outweighs any potential consequence of treatment, including the possibility of viral transmission.
- Patients who develop even mild illness or symptoms must cancel booked appointments, even without notice.

They will not be charged a late cancellation fee if they cancel due to illness related to Covid-19.

Upon Arrival

- The therapist will advise the patient of her current results from online BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment tool.
- Patients will be asked to confirm their own current results from online BC COVID-19 Symptom Self-Assessment tool.
- Patients must confirm that they have done a pre-screening and have no signs of Covid-19 as outlined here: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/about-covid-19/symptoms>
- Masks must be worn at all times within the clinic space. If the patient has a mask, they are asked to bring it with them and wear it when they arrive. If the patient does not have a mask, a single-use mask will be provided and they will be asked to wear it upon entering the clinic space. A mask is to be worn at all times while in clinic.
- The treatment will be canceled immediately if the patient does not meet the pre-screening criteria upon physical presentation at the clinic.

Physical Distancing Reception Area / Entry into Clinic Space

- Only 1 patient/person is permitted in the reception area at any given time. Patients must arrive unaccompanied. Exceptions include a parent of a child being treated, or an assistant to someone with mental or physical disabilities. Please call the clinic for additional direction.
- The therapist and the patient will both maintain a space of 2 meters (6 feet) distance between each other in all clinic areas that are outside the treatment room.
- The fabric chairs have been covered by vinyl that is separated by a minimum of 6ft.
- Patients are not permitted to lounge in the clinic reception area before or after the treatment.
- Coffee, tea, water and the candy dish have all been removed from the clinic reception area. Bottled water is available upon request.
- Nothing remains in the clinic space that cannot be disinfected after each touch.

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- Appointment times are scheduled to reduce the potential of patients crossing paths, and to allow for time in-between sessions for enhanced cleaning.
- Patients are asked to arrive on time and not early or late for appointments.
- Patients are required to wait in their vehicles or outside the clinic, until the therapist comes to the clinic door to call them in.
- The clinic door will be opened and closed for the patient by the therapist. The clinic door will be re-opened by the therapist at the end of the appointment for the patient to leave without touching the door knob.

Within the Treatment Room

- It is not possible to maintain physical distancing while in the treatment room.
- Patients will be asked to keep all personal belongings within a plastic bin, which can and will be sanitized between patients.
- Patients will be asked to remove from the clinic everything that they bring with them when they leave.

Restroom for Patient Use

- The restroom has been equipped with touch-less soap dispenser and single used wash cloths, which will be laundered between uses, and proper hand washing guidelines posted beside the sink.
- Soap and fresh towels for drying will be available at all times.
- A waste bin is available in the restroom so that patients may use a tissue paper to open the door, and then discard of it before re-entering the clinic space.

Hand Hygiene Reception Area / Entry into Clinic Space

- Immediately upon entering the clinic space the patient must either:
 - Go directly to the hand washing sink without touching anything inside the clinic and wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds and then dry thoroughly, or
 - Use the touch-less hand sanitizer dispenser on the reception desk inside
- If hands are visibly soiled, the patient must opt to wash hands at the hand washing sink.
- The therapist will wash hands thoroughly for at least 20 seconds between patients, before and after disinfecting spaces, before donning gloves and after taking gloves off, and before donning or doffing other PPE like face masks or shields.
- Hand washing protocols will be posted visibly in the reception area and at sinks.
- Payment occurs in the treatment room. Cash is strongly discouraged at this time. A wireless Point of Sale system with Tap is available for card use. In the event that this does not work, an email money transfer or other form will be possible. The POS machine will be sanitized between each patient.
- Receipts will be emailed, not printed.

In the Treatment Room

- The therapist will open the door to the treatment room and allow the patient to enter. The therapist will open/close the door before, during and after the treatment as required – reducing the need for the patient to touch the door.
- Patients will be permitted to open the door for themselves after the treatment to let themselves out of the treatment room.
- Tissue is available inside the treatment room that the patient may use as a barrier when opening the door.
- Hand sanitizer is available within the treatment room; patients will be asked to wash or sanitize their hands after the treatment.

- The door and doorknobs will be disinfected between each patient.

Avoid Face Touching

- The therapist will communicate with the patient that coronavirus can be transmitted by touch if droplets are on the hand when it touches the face, as it can transfer those infected droplets to the mouth, nose or eyes.
- Tissue will be available throughout the clinic: in the reception area, treatment room and washroom in order that patients and the therapist may use tissue to address an itch and/or touch the face for any other reason.
- The therapist will wear a mask and may wear safety glasses.
- Patients are required to wear face masks that cover both the nose and mouth at all times within the clinic space.
- Intraoral TMJ treatments will not be conducted at this time.

Enhanced Cleaning

- Additional time has been scheduled between patients to allow for thorough cleaning of the treatment room.
- Visibly soiled surfaces will be cleaned followed by disinfection with a Canada Health Approved for use against Covid19 disinfectant as listed here: <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-healthproducts/disinfectants/covid-19/list.html>
- Common areas will be cleaned and disinfected at least twice a day, including the restroom.
- All high touch surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected between patients, regardless of appearances. High touch surfaces include (but are not limited to):
- Light switches, stool cover, chairs, door knobs, POS machine, electronic devices, table surfaces, chairs, stools, faucets, etc.
- The treatment table, table levers, face cradle, lotion bottles will be disinfected immediately after each treatment.
- No hydrotherapy supplies, thermophores, table warmers or plush table covers will be used, unless covered buy a wipeable protective cover.
- A Cleaning and Disinfectant for Clinic Setting, donning and doffing of PPE, application of medical masks, and a physical distancing, hand washing/sanitizing protocol posters will be on display throughout the clinic.
- All linens, including blankets and pillow cases are single use only and will be laundered using high heat, and detergent between each use.
- A disinfected plastic bin has been placed in the treatment room. The patient will be asked to keep all of their personal belongings in this bin during the treatment.
- Bins will be disinfected between each patient before cycling back into use.

Personal Protective Equipment

- The therapist will wear a face mask and may wear safety glasses while working with a patient.
- The therapist's safety glasses, if worn, will be disinfected and/or changed in-between appointments.
- The therapist will wear non-latex gloves if/when appropriate.
- Gloves may be appropriate when over-use of cleaning and/or chemicals causes skin irritation, or when the therapist's hands or skin of the hands are otherwise injured.
- Hands will be washed prior to putting the gloves on and immediately after removing them.
- Gloves are also considered appropriate and will be worn by the therapist at the patient's request.
- Patients are required to wear a clean face mask that does not have an exhalation valve in the clinic at all times.

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- If patients have their own fabric face mask, they are requested to clean it prior to use, and to arrive at the clinic wearing it.
- If patients do not have a fabric face mask, a single-use non-medical mask will be provided at the time of their treatment.

Professional Obligations Liability Insurance

- The therapist carries professional liability insurance through Wilson M. Beck as provided through the Registered Massage Therapist Association of BC.
- The therapist is following all the health and safety guidelines outlined by the Registered Massage Therapists Association of BC, the College of Massage Therapists of British Columbia and the Provincial Health Officer and they are taking all reasonable precautions to clean and disinfect the clinic and all the surfaces within the treatment room.
- No guarantees have been made by the therapist that the patient may not come in contact with COVID-19 at or during an appointment.

In the Event That a Patient Tests Positive for Covid-19 Having Been to a Massage Therapy Appointment within the 10- days Prior to Onset of Symptoms

- The patient will contact the therapist and inform her of positive test results and possible transmission of the virus immediately.
- The therapist will immediately self-isolate if they show any symptoms.
- The therapist will call public health at 8-1-1 to report the possible transmission and act on direction of Provincial Health.

In the Event That a Patient Alleges they Caught COVID-19 from the Therapist

- The therapist will immediately call public health at 8-1-1 to report the alleged transmission, providing both the name of the RMT and the name and contact details of the patient.
- The patient must agree to the release of this information under these circumstances in order to receive treatment.
- All massage therapy appointments will be canceled and the Therapist will cease to provide services until Public Health has investigated and provided direction.
- The therapist will immediately self-isolate until Public Health has investigated and provided direction.

In the Event That the Therapist Catches COVID-19 or Displays Symptoms of Covid-19

- The therapist will immediately self-isolate.
- The therapist will call public health at 8-1-1 to report the symptoms and request access to Covid-19 testing.
- If testing is granted: All massage therapy appointments will be canceled and the Therapist will cease to provide services until test results are returned negative.
- If testing proves positive the therapist will follow Public Health directives.
- If testing is not granted: All massage therapy appointments will be canceled and the Therapist will cease to provide services for the current recommended time by the BCCDC at the onset of symptoms, and/or until symptoms cease.
- OR being cleared by a public health official.

Asymptomatic Spreaders

- Asymptomatic transmission of the coronavirus is an unavoidable risk of practice until we've acquired herd immunity; there is an effective treatment or vaccine against Covid-19.
- We have put into place protocols to help mitigate that risk as outlined in the preceding documentation.

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- No guarantees have been made by the therapist that the patient may not come in contact with COVID-19 at or during an appointment. Informed ---Consent In the current environment of Covid-19 risk, informed consent requires that the patient be informed and understands that:
- Any massage therapy treatment involves some risk of Covid-19 transmission;
- The therapist is following protocol to help reduce or mitigate risk where possible, but that risk cannot be reduced to zero
- The patient consents to the treatment despite some risk; The RMT will document the patient's consent in advance and at every treatment.

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