



## Speech Language Pathology in Motion, PLLC

300 Wheeler Road, Suite 106, Hauppauge, NY 11788

829 Old Nichols Road, Islandia, NY 11749

TEL: (631) 479-3393 ex. 3

FAX: (631) 479-3393

WEB: [www.speechinmotion.com](http://www.speechinmotion.com)

### Practice Policies Related to In-Person Treatment During the COVID-19 Pandemic

Reopening policies:

1. A face covering or mask is required while on the premises (exceptions will be made for those who are under the age of 2 or cannot wear a mask due to medical reasons or a disability).
2. At the start of each therapy session, a COVID-19 screening questionnaire will be completed. The patient or the patient's parent/guardian/caregiver will be asked to respond to the following questions:
  - A) Has the patient or anyone residing with the patient tested positive for COVID-19 within the past 14 days?**
  - B) Has the patient or anyone residing with the patient had any signs/symptoms of COVID-19 (i.e. fever, chills, shortness of breath, fatigue, muscle or body aches, cough, new loss of taste, new loss of smell, Nausea or vomiting and/or Diarrhea) in the past 14 days?**
  - C) Has the patient or anyone residing with the patient been in contact with anyone who has been confirmed to be COVID-19 positive in the past 14 days?**
  - D) Has the patient or anyone residing with the patient traveled outside of NYS in the past 14 days?**
3. SLPIM is asking clients to minimize the number of people accompanying the patient to the session to 1 parent or caregiver whenever possible. All visitors are required to wear a face covering/mask unless they are unable to do so due to a medical reason or disability, or they are under the age of 2. We ask that you bring your own masks/face coverings.
4. Patients will be asked to clean their hands at the beginning and end of the session.
5. To ensure the highest quality service delivery and to allow for additional safety measures, SLPIM will only schedule 45-minute sessions at our Hauppauge and Islandia locations this time. Sessions will be scheduled on the hour and will start and end on time. Session time includes time for the COVID-19 screening and any parent/guardian/caregiver education/discussion time.
6. In-person treatment may be denied or discontinued at any time at the discretion of the therapist/SLPIM if it is determined that continuing the session may put the patient or treatment team at risk for any reason, including but not limited to observed signs/symptoms of illness, and/or behavior difficulties that place the patient or treatment team at risk of increased contact or exposure.
7. If any person, who comes to either of SLPIM's physical locations, tests positive for COVID-19 within 14 days following the visit, they agree that they will inform SLPIM immediately.
8. Families will be asked to leave promptly after their session to allow for disinfecting and to limit the number of people on site.
9. The treating therapist and/or SLPIM may refuse to provide in person treatment at any time if it is determined that in person treatment places the patient or treatment team at unreasonable risk.



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### **The following protocols are specific to our Hauppauge Location:**

1. Clients are asked to arrive promptly for their scheduled sessions. If you arrive early, please wait in your car until the session start time to minimize time in the waiting room.
2. Temperatures will be taken upon arrival using a contact-less thermometer. If the patient, or anyone accompanying the patient to the session have a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the patient will not be able to be seen for therapy.
3. Parent/guardian/caregiver may be asked to remain in the treatment room for the duration of the session or to wait in their car to minimize the number of people in the waiting room. Parents/guardians/caregivers will be asked to assist with transfers, management of behavior difficulties and hygiene as needed to reduce infection risk.

### **The following protocols are specific to our Islandia Location, on the property of Pal-O-Mine Equestrian:**

1. The waiting room will be closed. Please arrive to your session on time and park in the parking space with your therapist's name on it. Your therapist will approach your car to complete your health screening and transition the client to the treatment area. Please be sure that all who are able to wear a face covering do so during the completion of the screening. Please remain in your car unless you need to use the bathroom or assist the client with getting into or out of the car.
2. Due to inconsistencies with contact less thermometers in hot and cold weather conditions, visitors to the Islandia location are asked to take their own temperatures at home before coming to therapy and report their temperature upon arrival. SLPIM may also take temperatures upon arrival using a contact-less thermometer at the therapist's discretion. If the patient, or anyone accompanying the patient to the session have a temperature of 100.4 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the patient will not be able to be seen for therapy.
3. Parent/caregiver must remain on site for the duration of the session.
4. We will no longer be able to offer patients the use of borrowed helmets. Patients are required to arrive to their sessions with their own helmet. The helmet must fit properly and be ASTM/SEI approved for horseback riding.
5. Patient's are asked to bring a clean towel, small blanket or a chuck to their session to be placed over the equipment on the horse as a barrier between the patient and the horse/equipment.
6. Sessions may be switched to the Hauppauge location or telepractice at the discretion of the treating therapist/SLPIM.

### **Additional Considerations:**

The American Speech Language and Hearing Association (ASHA) and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) have recommend utilizing telepractice when possible to deliver treatment during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In person speech language pathology services present inherent risks as they require close contact between the patient and therapist/treatment team for an extended period. SLPIM has implemented



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infection control measures and is complying with CDC, federal, state, and local government guidelines. There is an inherent possibility of contracting COVID-19 when receiving in person care, despite infection control measures taken by both Speech Language Pathology in Motion, Occupational Therapy in Motion and Pal-O-Mine Equestrian. The following information contained in this document should be considered when determining if in person speech language pathology services are appropriate for the patient at this time.

The following conditions may place a patient at higher risk when receiving in person treatment:

- Patient has an underlying medical condition which may exacerbate COVID-19 symptoms.
- Patient has difficulty understanding or following social distancing guidelines, performing appropriate hand hygiene, and/or adhering to safety protocols.
- Patient is unable to wear a face covering or mask.
- Patient requires physical contact or assistance from the therapist/treatment team to assist with balance, ambulating, transferring and/or mobility.
- Patient requires physical contact or assistance from therapist/treatment team due to behavior difficulties (i.e. needing their hand held/risk for elopement, decreased safety awareness, presence of aggressive or self-injurious behaviors etc.).
- Patient is not able to refrain from touching his/her face/mouth/nose during treatment.
- Patient has difficulty independently managing saliva and/or frequently drools.
- Patient is prone to placing toys and/or therapy materials in or around his/her mouth.

Additional considerations for determining if in-person treatment will be more beneficial than telepractice:

- Will the use of personal protective equipment (PPE) by therapist impact client's ability to benefit from treatment?
- Will SLP services delivered with the use of PPE and reduced physical contact be more effective than services delivered via telepractice?

To receive in-person treatment at this time, the patient or their parent/guardian must agree to adhere to the policies above.

In addition, the patient or the patient's parent/guardian must indicate that they feel that the benefits of in-person treatment delivery outweigh the potential risks.