



COVID-19 Policy from July 2020

Risk Assessment

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, Surrey Speech Therapy Ltd (SST) has conducted a thorough risk assessment to ensure:

- Hazards are identified – Both to the clients, their family members; and to SSLT therapists and their family members.
- Risks are assessed – Mechanisms by which COVID-19 may be transferred to or from client contact.
- Risk Control – Actions taken by SSLT to ensure COVID-19 risk exposure is as low as reasonably practicable.

This policy summarises the risk control actions in place to ensure assessments and therapy can continue during the pandemic, subject to the client's agreement and acceptance of these controls.

If the SST therapist presents with any symptoms, a Covid-19 test will be completed before she returns to work and you will be informed.

Use of Teletherapy

Since the onset of the pandemic, teletherapy has been used successfully for a number of clients. This type of therapy offers the lowest risk of infection to client, therapist and associated family members. However, this may not always suit the client's needs.

Social Distancing

Whenever possible, the government's 2m rule will be applied to all aspects of the assessment/therapy session. However, due to the therapy process, this is not always practicable. In such instances, PPE will be used in accordance with the section below. Seating in the home should be arranged for this *prior to the appointment*.

Alternatively, if possible, the appointment can take place in the garden and the therapist will enter via the side of the property; again, seating will need to be provided. Please inform the therapist of arrangements. The child and parent(s) should only be present, no other family members.

PPE

The following PPE shall be used during Assessment and Therapy sessions:

- Face shield – A transparent face shield will minimise the risk to both client and SSLT therapist when social distancing. This will be used for the child assessment (not the initial case history) and therapy.
- Latex gloves – When PROMPT therapy is required, sterile latex gloves shall be used
IMPORTANT – please advise if any family member has a latex allergy.

Sterilisation

Prior to entering the client's home, the SSLT therapist shall sanitise their hands using alcohol gel and avoid touching surfaces within the client's home.

Therapy resources shall be sanitised prior to and following the sessions.

Number of appointments per day

SST will only offer 2 appointments per day, in the first instance, to further minimise potential risk of transmission. This is part of the RCSLT's recommended *staged approach* to restoring services.

You have read and understand the information provided above regarding SST services – returning to face to face contact as the COVID-19 Pandemic lockdown is eased and all of your questions regarding assessment and therapy have been answered to your satisfaction.

You hereby give your informed consent for the use of SSLT Assessment / Treatment services with your child.

You agree to symptom check all members of the household on the morning of the appointment: high temperature, new continuous cough, loss of or change in normal taste/smell. You will take necessary precautions as listed above.

By signing you agree to have read, understood, and agreed to all of the above AND SSLT's Privacy Policy and Terms and Conditions (as per website links):

Signature (Parent/Carer)

Signature (Parent/Carer)

Date Signed

Date Signed

Parent's Full Names: _____

Your CHILD's First & Last Name: _____

If you have any further questions on any aspect of this risk assessment and the controls implemented within this policy, please contact Claire at Claire@surreyspeechtherapy.co.uk