

COVID-19 Policy from April 2022

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.

Current Government Guidance

Most specific COVID-19 guidance for schools and health professionals has been withdrawn from 1st April 2022.

PPE

The therapist won't wear a face mask / face shield during the assessment and therapy sessions to ensure optimum outcomes in therapy in terms of social interaction and allowing children to see jaw/lip/tongue movements of the therapist.

Sterilisation

Therapists will continue to reduce the risk of cross contamination by washing their hands or using antibacterial gel before appointments. Keeping therapy toys in separate bags for each client and wiping mouthed toys down after use. These identified adaptations to practice may not always be possible but the therapist will try their best to minimise the risk.

Number of appointments per day

SST will only offer a maximum of 4 appointments per day for home visits to further minimise potential risk of transmission.

Vaccination

The therapist working with your child will be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 – Doses 1,2 and a booster.

Therapist Testing

The therapist will now not routinely test twice weekly HOWEVER, if the therapist is showing any of the following symptoms, they will test. If the test comes back positive...they will not return to work for 5 days. You will not be charged for the missed appointment.

- Continuous cough.
- High temperature, fever or chills.
- Loss of or change to normal sense of taste and smell.
- Shortness of breath/unexplained tiredness, lack of energy.
- Muscle aches or pains, not due to exercise.
- Headache that's unusual/sore throat/stuffy nose/diarrhoea/vomiting.

Family Testing

There is not a legal requirement for you to test HOWEVER, if you or your child have any of the above symptoms – please inform your therapist immediately so that the next appointment can be rescheduled. If you give less than 1 day’s notice, you may be charged for the session. The therapist will most likely reschedule to the following week.

You have read and understand the information provided above regarding SST services 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.

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