



## **Infection Control COVID-19 Policy 16/03/20**

### **Policy statement**

In light of the current situation regarding COVID-19, I have developed this policy to inform you of the steps we are taking at Summer Hill Speech Therapy to reduce the risk of spread of the virus. I appreciate your full cooperation and support in this matter.

### **Public Health Advice**

At the moment our service is continuing as normal. The current advice from Public Health England is around prevention of spread and self-isolation in the event of symptoms:

- New continuous cough
- A temperature above 37.8

If you or your child, or someone you have been in contact with closely, demonstrates either of these symptoms, please follow guidelines to isolate for 7 days. Similarly if you have travelled to and recently returned from a known infected area, follow the public health measures to self-isolate for the suggested time period.

### **Cancellations**

As per the current guidelines we are absolutely carrying on the service until further guidance is given. However, please do cancel appointments if you or your child are experiencing any symptoms, even if it last minute; our usual cancellation policy is that you would be charged, but we will not be charging for cancellations for this. It is our absolute priority to keep service users' safe.

We will monitor our own health and personally follow isolation procedures should we need to. If we have to cancel appointments we will let you know as soon as possible.

### **Educational settings**

We have received notification that some schools are not allowing visitors on site; if this is the case we need you to let us know so we can make alternative arrangements. Where possible, we will offer you a therapy session at the therapy room at Malvern Cube, to keep interventions going and provide the service.

### **Action Plan**

As you will know, our work with children is very 'hands on'; this means utilising toys, equipment, resources, books, our hands and interaction at 'child-level'.

Our commitment to help spread infection:

- Signage to encourage hand washing

- We will wash our hands before and after any sessions, and wash our hands more frequently throughout the day
- We will ask you to hand sanitise at the beginning and end of a session
- All resources and toys will be cleaned after any single use with soap and water or antibacterial solutions
- We will wash down: door handles, all hard surfaces, the floor, pictures used within therapy, before/after each session
- We will provide some tissues and antibacterial wipes for use within sessions, and a bin for used tissues and materials
- We will wash our clothes at the end of each day
- The therapy room will be deep cleaned three times a week; floors will be cleaned every day the room has been used
- All cloth based materials will be removed from our therapy room: rugs, toys, bags, teddies, until further notice (we are sorry if your child's favourite resource isn't available during this time)

We need you to:

- Encourage your child to hand wash – we have attached a symbol supported guide to hand washing
- Use the toilet in the main centre to wash yours and your children's hands **before sessions**
- **Bring tissues** with you so they can be used within sessions
- Come to your appointments at the exact time, to prevent cross infection with other clients

### **Lock-down**

In the event of nationwide lock-down, we would like to suggest some skype based therapy sessions. We are currently looking into how to offer teletherapy via platforms such as zoom. We will contact you should this eventuality happen.

### **Sensible care of duty**

This is an unprecedented event and as a tiny business whose main customer is children and their parents, we will do our utmost to keep our service running as smoothly as possible. We would like everyone to adopt 'sensible' precautions as well as maintain a sense of normality.

We are here to help and we would like to stress that your wellbeing is very important to us during this rapidly changing and unknown global event. We will act as a community during this time to deliver the service we love to deliver. We will keep you up to date with any regular changes to our service, based on national and local government guidelines.

If you have any enquiries please do contact me directly: [kirstyfinneganspeechtherapist@gmail.com](mailto:kirstyfinneganspeechtherapist@gmail.com), 07508 804819.



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