



COVID-19 Policy update

July 1, 2020

As the community and state is continuing to move forward through the phases of re-opening, and as more people are returning to in-person therapy sessions, this policy provides updated guidelines of how Pediatric Feeding and Speech Solutions, PLLC is also moving forward to maintain as much safety and precautions that we can for all of our patients and therapists, while continuing to provide the best quality therapy.

1. If you are currently doing teletherapy visits for speech/feeding therapy, there is no pressure to return to in-person sessions. This decision is solely up to you and your comfort level with the informed risks of the virus. Please note however, that if you are and want to continue teletherapy, it is your responsibility to periodically check with your insurance company to make sure that they are continuing to cover teletherapy for speech/feeding therapy services. As this situation is fluid, the insurance companies may change their policies at any given moment.
2. If you would like to resume or continue with in-person sessions, we ask that you adhere to the following precautions:
 - **Please let your therapist know ASAP** if you have been in contact with anyone with a positive COVID diagnosis, if you are experiencing any signs or symptoms of infection including: (taken from CDC website 6/26/2020)
 - Cough
 - Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing
 - Fatigue
 - Muscle or body aches
 - Headache
 - New loss of taste or smell
 - Sore throat
 - Congestion or runny nose
 - Nausea or vomiting
 - Diarrhea

This list does not include all possible symptoms. CDC will continue to update this list as we learn more about COVID-19.

Your therapist will notify you if she has experienced any of these signs or symptoms as well. If you believe that you/your child have been exposed to the virus we ask that you discontinue in-person sessions for the recommended 14 days- during which time we can change to teletherapy sessions after you check with your insurance company regarding coverage.

3. We are minimizing the foot traffic and number of people that come into the office as much as possible. Our scheduling of 1:1 sessions with one therapist and one child will continue. If your child can separate from you without difficulty, please allow your therapist to get your child from you either from the sidewalk outside the door, or just inside the door in the waiting area. Please also return to your car to wait and your therapist will bring your child to you at the completion of therapy. Please discuss further details about running errands during the session, or alternate ways to get a hold of you during the session, with your therapist if needed.
4. Once in the building the therapist and your child will wash hands before beginning therapy. Hand sanitizer is also available for you or your child.
5. Due to the nature of speech therapy and feeding therapy, and the ages that we are working with, it is difficult to maintain a 6ft. distance at all times and wear masks that do not allow the child to see the mouth. Your therapist will practice safe distancing as much as possible to maintain safety with your child during the session. If you would like your therapist to use a mask for the end of the session review when speaking to you, we are happy to do that and/or maintain at least 6ft. social distance.
6. Toys and materials that are used during therapy will be sanitized after each session either with soap and water, Clorox wipes, or via Clorox Healthcare Hydrogen Peroxide disinfectant wipes. Please allow a 5-10 minute buffer at the beginning of your therapy session to allow your therapist time to appropriately clean and prepare materials.

Please remain flexible as this continues to be a fluid process as new guidelines are issued from the CDC, state, and local governments.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to speak with your therapist and/or contact Kelly directly either via phone 703-771-2200 or email: kelly@pediatricfeedingandspeech.com

Above all, we appreciate your business and your understanding in respecting the above guidelines in our efforts to keep everyone safe during these uncertain times.

Kelly Benson-Vogt, MA CCC/SLP
Owner

I understand and agree to adhere to the above guidelines. I will notify my child's therapist with any health concerns for my family or child related to the diagnosis of or potential exposure to the COVID-19 virus.

_____ for Child: _____
Parent/ Guardian

Date