

DDSD Therapy (OT, PT, SLP) and Behavior Support Consultant (BSC) Requirements for conducting essential health care face to face clinical sessions using COVID-19 Safe Practices effective August 1, 2020, **updated March 1, 2021.**

Stay Home if You are Sick:

- Therapists and BSCs must stay home and not conduct face to face clinical sessions if they have been exposed to COVID-19 in the last fourteen (14) days or are showing COVID-19 [symptoms](#). Anyone who has had [close contact](#) with a person who has COVID-19 should also stay home and monitor their health.

Scheduling Therapy and BSC Clinical Sessions:

- All Therapy and BSC face to face clinical sessions must be scheduled at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance.
- Each provider agency must establish a point of contact, who has authority to schedule Therapy and BSC clinical sessions, e.g. Service Coordinator, House Supervisor, etc.
- The provider agency sets the appropriate hours during which Therapy and/or BSC clinical sessions may occur, based upon the number of individuals receiving services in the home, staff available during the time of the proposed visit, and ability to implement appropriate disinfection between sessions.
- Prior to any therapist entering the home, the provider agency shall perform screening including symptom and temperature check. Screening requirements of Therapists and BSCs must include the following:
 - Ask the Therapist and/or BSC if they have traveled out of state within the last fourteen (14) days.
 - If the answer is “Yes” the session will not proceed.
 - Ask the Therapist and/or BSC if they have a fever (above 100.4) by taking their temperature using a temporal thermometer.
 - Ask the Therapist and/or BSC “Have you felt like you had a fever in the past day?”
 - Ask the Therapist and/or BSC “Do you have a new or worsening cough today?”
 - Ask the Therapist and/or BSC, “Do you have any of these other symptoms?”
 - 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
- If the answer is “Yes” to any of these questions, the session will not proceed.
- If the answer is “No” to each of these questions, the session may proceed.
- Therapy and BSC clinical sessions shall adhere to the mass gathering requirements of the current Public Health Order.

Therapists and BSCs must wear a face mask and/or face covering following guidelines from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

- Therapists and BSCs must wear a face mask and/or face covering throughout the entirety of the clinical session. The face mask/covering must be worn properly (covering the nose and mouth with a tight fit) throughout the duration of the visit.
- Therapists and BSCs who refuse to wear a face mask/face covering will be asked to leave the home; and a report of non-compliance will be filed with the DDS Regional Office.
- Therapists and BSCs must follow COVID-19 Safe Practices (see attached All Together New Mexico COVID Safe Practices 2020).

Social Distancing Enforcement:

- When possible, Therapists and BSCs should maintain social distancing to the extent possible while conducting the session.
- No more than one Therapist or BSC may conduct a session in the home at the same time.
- Minimize gestures that promote close contact. For example, don’t shake hands; wave and verbally greet them.