

**COLLEGE OF AUDIOLOGISTS AND
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGISTS
OF
NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR**

October 14, 2021

To: All CASLP-NL Registrants

RE: COVID-19 Practice Recommendations

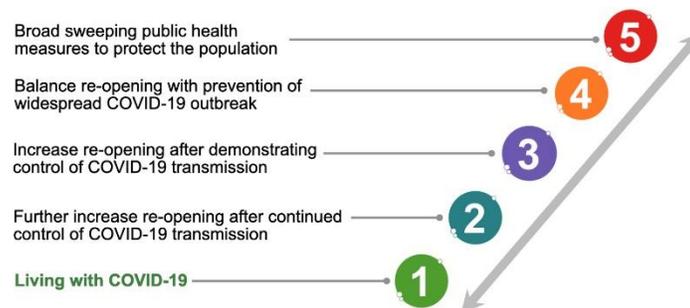
At this time, in the interest of client and provider safety, we ask all members to please consider the following as it relates to the provision of services:

- 1.0 General Recommendations**
- 2.0 Speech-Language Pathology Procedures**
- 3.0 Audiology Procedures**
- 4.0 Telepractice**
- 5.0 Infection Prevention and Control**

Newfoundland and Labrador is in COVID 19 Alert Level 2. The provincial direction will continue to evolve and the College may not be as quick to update. It is important that you refer to restrictions/guidelines released by the provincial government prior to engaging in or resuming professional practice.

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/>

NL COVID-19 Alert Levels



1.0 General Recommendations

1.1 Guidelines from our provincial government in Phase 2:

Health care services:

- Regional health authorities have resumed services
- Private health care clinics have resumed services
- Schools have resumed in-person instruction

Therefore, routine services can proceed during this phase.

1.2 Refer to SAC's COVID-19 website for the most up to date clinical practice considerations.

<https://www.sac-oac.ca/update-members-and-associates-covid-19>

1.3 Use of a risk assessment and client screening tool. Please refer to items 2 and 3 of the CASLPO document: Providing Patient Care in a Pandemic (May 2020)

<https://caslpo.com/public/covid-19-information/providing-patient-care-in-a-pandemic>

1.4 Use of appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and practice Physical Distancing.

Please refer to items 4 and 5 of the CASLPO document: Providing Patient Care in a Pandemic (May 2020), linked above, as well as SAC website: <https://www.sac-oac.ca/news-events/news/covid-19-update-infection-prevention-and-control>

1.5 Follow all employer policies and guidelines re: clinical practice and COVID-19, including Infection prevention and control guidelines. See items 5.0.

1.6 If you feel unsafe to perform a specific evaluation or intervention based on evidenced-based practice and your clinical judgement, discussion with management/employer on a case-by-case basis is advised.

2.0 Speech-Language Pathology Procedures

At this time, it is the stance of CASLP-NL to take direction from our national association, Speech and Audiology Canada (SAC). Please review the following documentation, as found on SAC's website: <https://www.sac-oac.ca/news-events/news/new-speech-language-pathology-clinical-practice-guidelines>

- [Dysphagia care across the continuum: A multidisciplinary Dysphagia Research Society Taskforce report of service-delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Guidelines of clinical practice for the management of swallowing disorders and recent dysphonia in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Management of dysphagia in the patient with head and neck cancer during COVID-19 pandemic: Practical strategy](#)
- [Rapid guidance summary about the rehabilitation needs of patients with COVID-19 in ICU and in-patient hospital settings](#)

- [Speech-language pathology guidance for tracheostomy during the COVID-19 pandemic: An international multidisciplinary perspective](#)
- [Speech-Language Pathology Management of Adults with COVID-19 in the Acute Hospital Setting: Initial Recommendations to Guide Clinical Practice](#)
- [The Laryngectomy guide for COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [Virtual dysphagia evaluation: Practical guidelines for dysphagia management in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- [A consensus statement for the management and rehabilitation of communication and swallowing function in the ICU: A global response to COVID-19](#)
- [SAC Webcast: Managing Dysphagia in Patients with COVID-19 in Acute Care and Beyond: Facilitators and Barriers to Practice](#)
- [Rehabilitation for Patients with COVID-19: Guidance for Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Speech-Language Pathologists and Assistants](#)

3.0 Audiology Procedures

At this time, it is the stance of CASLP-NL to take direction from our national association, Speech and Audiology Canada (SAC). Please review the following documentation, as found on SAC's website:

<https://www.sac-oac.ca/news-events/news/audiology-clinical-practice-guidelines>

- [COVID-19 Return to Work Guidance and Recommendations for Vestibular Clinicians \(AAA\)](#)
- [Newborn Hearing Screenings and Follow-Up During a Pandemic \(AAA\)](#)
- [Best Practices Guidelines for Safely Conducting Hearing Testing During the COVID-19 Pandemic \(NHCA\)](#)
- [Audiology & Otology joint guidance updated – 1 June 2020 \(AIHHP, BAA, BSA, BSHAA Joint Guidance\)](#)
- [Audiological profile of asymptomatic Covid-19 PCR-positive cases](#)

4.0 Telepractice

As the COVID-19 situation continues to evolve, both Speech-Language Pathologists and Audiologists are looking to telepractice to support their clients.

At this time, it is the stance of CASLP-NL to take direction from our national association, SAC. Please review the following resources:

- SAC-COVID-19-Telepractice site: https://www.sac-oac.ca/news-events/news/new-covid-19-update-telepractice?_ga=2.37128104.926434915.1585577332-438147305.1580829123
- The Use of Telepractice for SAC S-LPs and Audiologists: https://www.sac-oac.ca/sites/default/files/resources/sac_telepractice_position_paper_english.pdf

When telepractice is operationally feasible, please consider the following:

1. **Client confidentiality.** While CASLP-NL does not have a specific recommendation for a telepractice platform, we can say that platforms that are consistent with HIPAA/FERPA compliance would meet the needs of our professionals. It is critical that you ensure the platform version that you use e.g. trial version, free version, limited capability version, full suite, etc. are

consistent with these standards. You may also wish to consider, when entering any client information into these platforms, that you limit information to essential details only and use de-identified information whenever possible.

2. **Use of a consent form.** Sample consent forms can be found on the SAC website.
3. **License jurisdiction.** You must ensure that you are working within your scope of practice, and registered in the jurisdiction where the client resides. As a registered member in NL, you may provide telepractice to clients in NL; however, you would need to contact the regulatory body in other jurisdictions if you look to service clients outside this province.
4. **Professional-liability insurance.** Please confirm with your professional liability insurer that there are no additional restrictions with regard to telepractice. BMS has confirmed that “those insured with SAC Professional Liability Insurance have “no additional restrictions in relation to delivering professional services via telemedicine...”.

5.0 Infection Prevention and Control

Infection prevention and control is a critical element of clinical practice, and employer policies and guidelines must be followed. With the evolving nature of COVID-19, it is important to stay up to date as recommendations may change quickly. Please review the following resources as found on the SAC website:

<https://www.sac-oac.ca/update-members-and-associates-covid-19>

<https://www.sac-oac.ca/news-events/news/covid-19-update-infection-prevention-and-control>

- [Infection Prevention and Control Resources for S-LPs in Healthcare Settings \(updated May 25, 2020\)](#)
- [Infection Prevention and Control Resources for Audiologists \(updated June 2020\)](#)
- [Masks \(updated February 24, 2021\)](#)
- [New PPE Matchmaking Portal \(updated June 22, 2020\)](#)
- [Canada’s COVID-19 Immunization Plan: Saving Lives and Livelihoods](#)
- [COVID-19 Awareness Toolkit](#)

DISCLAIMER: The information contained in this document as it relates to COVID-19 is accurate based on the date of release; however, information and recommendations are continually evolving.

In addition to the CASLP-NL, NLCHP and Gov NL websites, please monitor the SAC COVID-19, CASLPO websites for up-to-date information:

<https://www.sac-oac.ca/update-members-and-associates-covid-19>

<https://caslpo.com/public/covid-19-information>

<https://www.gov.nl.ca/covid-19/alert-system/>

<https://www.nlchp.ca/nlchp-draft-covid-19-guidelines-and-resources/>

<http://www.caslpnl.ca/>