



## PANDEMIC PRACTICE ADVICE 1: GENERAL INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL

EFFECTIVE:	MAY 19, 2020
REVISED – EFFECTIVE:	MAY 26, 2020

**Revision:** Restrictions for in-person non-essential services have been amended. All deferred and non-essential services can be gradually restarted.

**Please consult the website regularly for potential revisions to these documents.**

These Information sheets are intended to help audiologists and speech-language pathologists (SLPs) to provide in-person patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The information sheets include three different types of information:

- 1) **Requirements** – Legislation, regulations and College standards
- 2) **Principles** – Information from various agencies
- 3) **Suggestions** – Ideas on how to proceed

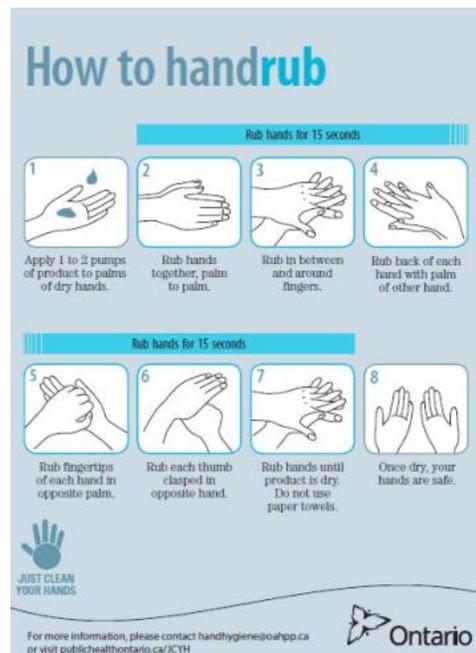
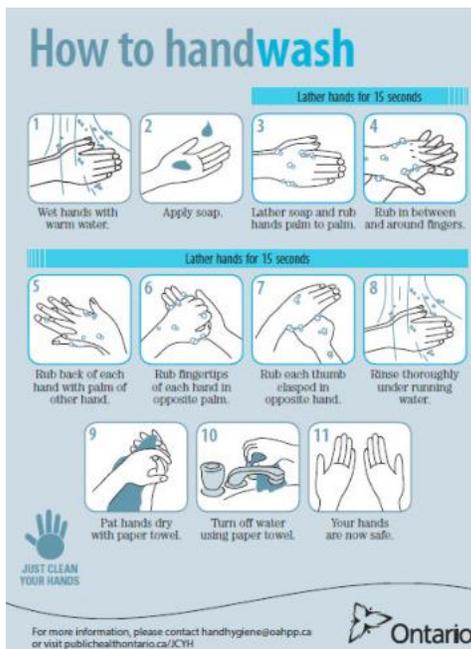
### REQUIREMENTS:

- Follow CASLPO's [Infection Prevention and Control Standards](#).  
There are four standards addressing:
  - requirements to remain current
  - assessment of risk
  - the use of current infection prevention and control (IPAC) procedures
  - cleaning equipment and materials.The standards also include links to external information
- Follow requirements in [COVID-19 Operational Requirements: Health Sector Restart](#)
- Follow all IPAC requirements specified by the provincial government, applicable ministries and Public Health Ontario.
- Follow all IPAC requirements at your place of work.

### PRINCIPLES:

- [IPAC Canada](#) and [Public Health Ontario](#) provides current information regarding IPAC
- Develop written IPAC measures and procedures for staff safety. Ensure they are accessible.

- Have hand sanitizer available and ask patients to clean their hands with sanitizer on entry to the clinic
- Remove all unnecessary items in the office or clinic that may be touched to prevent contamination, for example, magazines, toys, water coolers in the waiting room.
- [Protect yourself and others](#) – World Health Organization
  - If you contract COVID-19, follow the recommendations from Public Health Ontario regarding isolation, testing and return to work.
  - Do not go to work if you are ill (not COVID-19). Fully recover from your illness before returning to work.
  - Regularly and thoroughly clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand rub or wash them with soap and water.
  - Wash your hands before and after seeing a patient.
  - When working in the community, carry hand sanitizer and clean your hands before and after seeing a patient.
  - Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
  - Make sure you, and the people around you, follow good respiratory hygiene. This means covering your mouth and nose with your bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Then dispose of the used tissue immediately and wash your hands.
  - Have tissues and no-touch lined garbage receptacles throughout the clinic and office.
  - When working in the community, have a dedicated paper or plastic bag for your used tissues and wipes. Dispose the bag safely when you can.
  - Wear work clothes which are removed on returning home and washed.



## SUGGESTIONS:

- If you work with a number of registrants, consider asking one staff member to become an IPAC lead. It will be their responsibility to ensure that your procedures are up to date and that all staff are complying.
- Develop an IPAC policy, manual for your place of work.
- Write up the IPAC activities you are doing and post it in your waiting room, office and on your website. The public you serve will be assured that you are doing your part to keep them safe.
- Take a [Public Health Ontario online learning course](#)
- Download posters and put them up in your waiting room and treatment areas.

We cannot predict the consequences of the return to work, consequently further guidance may be added or changed. Also, as a self-regulated professional you must always use your professional judgement. The College's [Practice Advice team](#) is here to discuss issues with you.