



## PANDEMIC PRACTICE ADVICE 2: POINT OF CARE RISK ASSESSMENT

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:

- Registrants must assess the risks for contamination and transmission of infectious agents for specific patients within specific environments (CASLPO's [Infection Prevention and Control Standard 2](#))
- A point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA) must be performed by every health care worker before every patient interaction. (Chief Medical Officer of Health, Ontario, March 30, 2020-[Directive #1](#))
- If the patient's clinical or therapeutic needs were deferred or are non-essential consider providing assessment or treatment via virtual care [Directive 2 for Health Care Providers](#).

### PRINCIPLES:

Point-of-care risk assessment (PCRA)

- Prior to any client interaction, audiologists and SLPs have a responsibility to assess the infectious risks posed to themselves, the client, and any others from a client, situation or procedure.
- The PCRA is a routine practice that should be applied by all SLPs and Audiologists before every clinical encounter regardless of COVID-19 status and is based on professional judgment (i.e. knowledge, skills, reasoning and education) made regarding the likelihood of exposing themselves and/or others to infectious agents,

for a specific interaction, a specific task, with a specific client, and in a specific environment, under available conditions

- The PCRA helps registrants to select the appropriate actions and/or PPE to minimize the risk of exposure to known and unknown infections.

## SUGGESTIONS:

- Ask yourself a series of questions before every patient interaction, to determine risk of being exposed to infection. Questions may include:
  - Is the hazard present in the situation?
  - What is the health status of the patient?
  - What type of task am I doing?
  - Where am I doing the task?
  - What action do I need to take?
- A PCRA focuses on the things you have control over and helps you decide what actions to take to protect yourself against exposure to infections
  - choice of PPE
  - physical distancing
  - cleaning
  - equipment use
  - signage

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.



