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COVID-19 Notice of Safety for Patients and Employees

Capitol City Speech Therapy understands the significance of the Coronavirus. We are providing both in-person appointments or via teletherapy. We have officially reopened our Raleigh and Fuquay offices with new guidelines in place for in person therapy sessions during this outbreak (updated May 16, 2021)

Per the America Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA): COVID-19 has had unprecedented impacts on service delivery, impacting healthcare workers and the patients they serve. ASHA maintains that decisions about patients' care should be made based on the clinician's professional judgement and clinical expertise, in accordance with the [ASHA Code of Ethics](#) and [SLP Scope of Practice](#). Every patient presents with unique characteristics and medical situations. "Facilities should maintain a person-centered approach to care. This includes communicating effectively with residents, resident representatives and/or their family, and understanding their individual needs and goals of care."

Your Part:

In office Visits:

- If you suspect you or a family member has the Coronavirus (fever, dry cough, sore throat or difficulties breathing within the last 21 days) or if you or any of your family members has been exposed to anyone with the COVID-19 please call to reschedule your appointment.
- All patients and caregivers that enter the office will be screened. You will be asked COVID-19 screening questions. If you screen positive to any or all of the questions you will be asked to reschedule your appointment.
- Cover your nose and mouth with your elbow fold, inside your shirt, or a tissue when you cough or sneeze (and/or step outside of the room).
- Handwashing/sanitizing prior to the session.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth after touching surfaces.
- Please limit the number of non-vaccinated companions you bring to your appointment. In general, our space is limited.
- All non-vaccinated adult patients and non-vaccinated essential caregivers are required to bring a face covering to their appointment and wear it in common spaces and/or if your therapist feels more comfortable if you wear it during the full therapy session. However, when/if greater than 6 ft away, face coverings may be removed in the treatment room.
- To limit your time in the office, our waiting room will continue to be remain closed. We ask that you wait in your car or outside. Do not leave Capitol City Speech Therapy property if your child's or companion's session is only 30 minutes. Failure to pick up your loved one on time may result in being discharged from Capitol City Speech Therapy.
- Copayments should be made via phone or mail. However, if you are in the office participating in therapy, and you have passed the screening question, you may pay in person. If using a credit card, please insert the card yourself into the terminal. We will not require signatures for credit card payments at this time.

In Home Visits:

- Patient must pass screening question prior to entering-verbal, text, or email

- Prior to each therapy session, hand sanitizing will be completed by all members participating in therapy.
- If seen for a “home visit”, please limit the number of people in the session 1-2 (nonvaccinated individuals).
- If in a home with nonvaccinated individuals, try to complete the session outside (i.e., yard, screening in porch, well ventilated space). Adults and therapist will wear face coverings frequently and increase usage when less than 6ft away. SLP will attempt to remain 6ft away and “coach” the caregiver/parent through the therapy session.
- Supplies coming into the home will be limited. However, if a therapist brings in toys, the toys will be clean/disinfected prior to them entering the house and upon leaving.

Our Part:

- All vaccinated employees: prior to starting their work day will wash their hands and wash their work space.
- In addition to the above statement, non-vaccinated employees will check their temperature before their shift.
- All employees will frequently wear a mask when in close distances of nonvaccinated employees and/or patients.
- All therapist will frequently wear a face covering and during therapy sessions. Face coverings may be removed if it scares the patient, if the patient is at least 6 ft away or if therapy procedures require the therapist to show her mouth to maximize the efficiency and effectiveness of the therapy session.
- We will continue to use cleaning products that are EPA registered disinfectants. Areas will be wiped down between patients.
- Air purifiers if turned off during the therapy session will be turned on “high” between patients that have not been vaccinated.
- We are scheduling 10-15-minute gaps between patients to allow for extra time to sanitize and disinfect the room and supplies between patients (including using an Air purifier)
- Both offices will increase ventilation per CDC guidelines
- All patients and caregivers will be asked screening questions. If everyone passes the screening they will be allowed into the clinic.
- Your therapist will provide you with a handout/summary of the therapy session or email/text you if requested.

Capitol City Speech Therapy is a small business. We rely on our customers; “you- our patient and our friends” to stay in business. The government has pointed out there is a national emergency for everyone’s health. We feel like we have taken the information from the CDC and created a safe environment for our employees and our patients. We look forward to continuing to work with you during the pandemic and hope we can bring some happiness and bright spirits into your lives during this period.

Sincerely,

Tracy Barnes

Owner/Founder Capitol City Speech Therapy

*Updated May 16, 2021