



Building Skills through Therapeutic Play

## COVID 19 Onsite Patient Care Policy, updated 12-15-2020

Boston Sensory Solutions is dedicated to the health and safety of its staff, patients, and families.

In keeping with the most current Public Health Order (initiated June 24, 2020, updated regularly) and MA Travel Order (initiated 8-1-2020, and updated weekly) from state and local health authorities, Boston Sensory Solutions, as an essential service healthcare provider, requires adherence to the following guidelines for in-person services.

- **General Precautions across Community Settings:** In order to participate in clinic based services at Boston Sensory Solutions, all persons (staff, patients, and families) agree to adhere to social distancing guidelines, wearing of masks/ face coverings, and hand washing recommended by the CDC and State of Massachusetts at all times, including in their activities outside of Boston Sensory Solutions.
- **Travel and Lower Risk States:** If a Boston Sensory Solutions staff member, patient or family member has travelled beyond an area deemed lower risk by the Commonwealth of MA Travel Order or been on an airplane to/ from any destination in the last 14 days, the in clinic session must be replaced with a telehealth session. The Boston Sensory Solutions staff member, patient or family member who has travelled must quarantine 14 days. Alternately, this person may wait 5 days after returning to MA and be tested with PCR testing (not rapid testing). Negative test results may be shared with clinic manager, Nicole, or owner, Bridget, in order to facilitate a return to in clinic services.
- **Signs of Illness:** If a Boston Sensory Solutions staff member, patient or family member is exhibiting any signs of illness (elevated temperature, congestion, sneezing, coughing, difficulty breathing, vomiting, GI distress, sore throat, headache, body aches) prior to an in clinic session, the session must be transitioned to telehealth sessions until signs of illness have resolved or a negative PCR test result has been shared with the clinic. If a patient is too ill to participate in a telehealth session, we will first try to reschedule the session to a later date that week; if this is not possible due to the patient's illness, the session will be cancelled that week.
- **Potential Exposures:** If a Boston Sensory Solutions staff member, patient or family member has come into contact with anyone who reports a confirmed or suspected positive case of Covid19 within the last 14 days, the in clinic session must be transitioned to a telehealth session for 10-14 post exposure, per recommendations of CDC and local boards of health. The person(s) must follow CDC and State of Massachusetts recommended protocols regarding quarantine before returning onsite to Boston Sensory Solutions.
- **Positive Covid 19 in Immediate Households:** If any Boston Sensory Solutions staff member, patient, family member or member of their household is confirmed or suspected to have Covid19, in clinic services must immediately be transitioned to telehealth services. In clinic services can only resume after that individual's:

- Resolution of fever (below 100 degrees Fahrenheit) without the use of fever-reducing medications for 24 consecutive hours **and**
  - Resolution of respiratory symptoms (e.g. cough, shortness of breath) **and**
  - At least 14 days have passed *since symptoms first appeared*
- OR**
- Negative results of an FDA approved, PCR Covid19 test taken **on or after day 8** of household member diagnosis. Results must be received and shared with Clinical Director, Bridget Dujardin, for approval to return to in clinic services. Rapid tests do not meet this criteria.

- **On Site Precautions:**

- **Temperature Checks:** Upon outside arrival at Boston Sensory Solutions, a temperature check will be completed by a staff member. If any individual has a temperature of 100 degrees Fahrenheit or higher, the in clinic session must be replaced with a telehealth session.
- **Social Distancing/ Parent Accompaniment:** Boston Sensory Solutions staff members, patients, and patient family members will adhere to social distancing recommendations (6 feet between non-related individuals) before, during, and after service delivery, as appropriate and safe.
- **Masks:** Onsite at all times Boston Sensory Solutions staff members, patients, and family members will wear masks. Patients under 2 years old are exempt for this mandate. An effort will be made to provide clear facial coverings for those involved in speech sessions.
- **Intermittent Transition to Telehealth:** Any in clinic appointment will be transitioned to telehealth at the request of the patient, family, or clinic if above concerns re travel, exposure, or suspected infection by Covid 19 exist. Once testing or quarantine requirements are met, appointments may return to in clinic visits. By keeping visits scheduled via telehealth, patients may retain their preferred weekly appointment times. If any patient is unable or unwilling to transition to telehealth appointments for two or more consecutive weeks, we will make every effort to accommodate a preferred appointment time for them upon return to services; unfortunately, this cannot be guaranteed.

The above specific guidelines and safety measures will be followed within Boston Sensory Solutions to ensure the safety of all staff members, patients and family members.