



Building Skills through Therapeutic Play

COVID 19 Onsite Patient Care Policy, updated 6-28-2021

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

Boston Sensory Solutions, as a healthcare provider, requires adherence to the following guidelines for Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy services.

- **General Precautions across Community Settings:** In order to participate in clinic based services at Boston Sensory Solutions, all unvaccinated persons (patients, families, and caregivers) 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 plans travel beyond the Commonwealth of MA, the administrative team at Boston Sensory Solutions must be notified prior to travel. Unvaccinated people, including children not yet eligible for vaccine, must avoid in clinic services for 10 days post travel. These visits will be replaced with telehealth sessions to ensure continuity of care. Alternately, this unvaccinated person may wait 3 days after returning to MA and be tested with PCR testing (not rapid testing). Negative test results must be shared with clinic manager, Nicole, or owner, Bridget, in order to facilitate a return to in clinic services.
 - If you need to transition to a telehealth session due to travel, please advise of travel plans prior to leaving the state (ideally 3-5 days prior to your trip) to ensure your therapist has enough time to prepare for your telehealth session and provide you with supplies needed.
 - **Exemption-** Fully vaccinated individuals (those who have received the full course of a vaccine 14 or more days ago) are exempt from the above noted travel restrictions. As most children are not yet vaccinated, this exemption applies primarily to parents or caregivers who travel without unvaccinated family members.
- **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 10 days, the in clinic session(s) must be transitioned to a telehealth session(s) for a minimum of 10 days post exposure. **This applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people in our clinic.**

- **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.
 - **This guideline also applies to both vaccinated and unvaccinated people in our clinic.**

- **On Site Precautions:**
 - **Prescreening Check ins:** Boston Sensory Solutions uses the MyMedBot app for in clinic appointment prescreening. Each caregiver must complete the prescreen at least two hours before and no later than 10am on the day of an in clinic session. If a patient or caregiver is “flagged” by the app, caregiver must call the office as instructed on the app in order to be cleared for the in-clinic session. If the person cannot be cleared, the visit must be replaced with a telehealth session. “Flagging” does NOT cancel a session.
 - **Parent Accompaniment:** One parent must accompany each child into in-clinic sessions. Additional family members or care providers are not permitted in the clinic. The accompanying caregiver must remain in the treatment room with the therapist and child for the duration of the session unless specific permission has been granted by the primary therapist to waive this requirement out of clinical necessity. Vaccinated caregivers may wait in a socially distanced chair in the waiting room in these instances.
 - **Masks:** Onsite at all times Boston Sensory Solutions staff members, patients, and family members will wear masks. Patients under 2 years old are exempt from this mandate. An effort will be made to provide clear facial coverings for those involved in speech sessions or upon request.
 - **Intermittent Transition to Telehealth:** The majority of visits are now expected to occur in the clinic. In clinic appointments will be transitioned to telehealth **only** if above concerns re symptoms, travel, exposure, or suspected infection by Covid 19 exist. Once testing or quarantine requirements are met, appointments must return to in clinic visits. Visits can no longer be transitioned to telehealth for non Covid related concerns. Any telehealth visit must take place in the patient's home with therapy supplies on hand.

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.