

Phase 3 Guidance - Target Date – March 21, 2022

This document provides guidance to community-based occupational therapists (i.e. private sector) for transitioning to Phase 3 of Nova Scotia’s Reopening Plan. For details on the current requirements/restrictions and the planned changes for phase 3, please visit:

<https://novascotia.ca/reopening-plan/phase-three/>

Occupational therapists working in the public sector and residential care sector will continue to follow the guidance provided by NSHA, IWK and DHW

| Requirement | Details | Change? |
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| Vaccination Status | Occupational therapy is an important healthcare service for members of the public. Access must not be limited due to vaccination status. The client’s vaccination status should have no bearing on the care delivered. Clinics should ensure that any vaccination policies they implement for staff meet all legal requirements, such as human rights legislation. | No |
| Virtual Care | If appropriate for the client, virtual care can continue to be offered. | No |
| Screening | Screening clients and staff is not required, however passive screening for respiratory illness symptoms is recommended. | Yes – passive screening is no longer a requirement, but still recommended for symptoms and isolation requirements. |
| Contact Tracing | Processes to assist contact tracing are not required. | No |
| Personal Hygiene | Cough Etiquette and Hand Hygiene are routine practices meaning they are infection prevention control (IPC) measures for use in the routine care of <u>all</u> clients at <u>all</u> times in <u>all</u> care settings. | No |
| Environmental Cleaning and Disinfection | Effective cleaning and disinfection are essential to avoid the possible | No |

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| | spread of COVID-19 and other pathogens. Regular cleaning and disinfection are necessary to prevent the spread of disease as viruses can survive for differing periods of time depending on the surfaces they land on. | |
| Social/Physical Distancing | Social/Physical distancing is not required in private sector occupational therapist settings in phase 3. Clinics and practices are still encouraged to provide opportunities through waiting room setup and scheduling to allow clients to maintain social distance where possible. | Yes |
| Masks | Masks are not mandatory for staff or clients. Clinics may require masks. The College recommends the use of masks during the respiratory illness season for staff and clients. | Yes |
| Clinic Clothing | There are no specific requirements beyond normal hygiene for staff and clinicians' clothes during phase 3. | No |

Please note that as regulated health professionals, Occupational Therapists are required to:

- Follow all mandates and recommendations from Public Health and the Government of Nova Scotia regarding your personal and professional conduct. As a regulated health professional, you have a responsibility to follow all civil orders that originate from any level of government.
- Read and adhere to all communication from the COTNS.

Please contact the College with any questions regarding this guidance.