

Allied Health Outpatient Group Sessions –COVID-19 “Living with COVID”

The following principles were approved at CALHN ID Cell 13/9/22 for allied health departments to use as guide for outpatient group sessions when there are low numbers of transmission being reported in the community. Inpatient group sessions should follow locally approved guidelines such as *Hampstead Rehabilitation Therapy COVID-19 Safety Guidelines*.

Principles - Low community transmission – Outpatient groups

- Face to face outpatient groups may occur.
- Sessions should be for outpatients only (i.e., do not have mixed sessions with inpatients and outpatients).
- Use large room spaces where possible.
- Covid screening prior to attending / entering the area by asking the following:
 - Do you have any signs or symptoms of respiratory illness / COVID-19?
 - Are you currently a close contact of COVID-19?
 - Have you tested positive to COVID-19 within the last 10 days?

If any of the above apply (answer yes) then they do not attend the area and contact a clinician to discuss options.

If anyone has tested positive to COVID-19 in the previous 10 days AND attended a session, then consider if there may be others in the outpatient group who may be close contacts using the [SA Health close contact](#) guidelines.

- Masks for participants and clinicians as per current CALHN guidelines
- Social distancing of 1.5m (consider room capacity).
- Hand hygiene prior and post session and during session if indicated.
- Disinfecting surfaces before and after sessions and during session if indicated e.g., between using gym equipment.
- Plan in place to re-instate additional risk mitigation strategies if there are increased cases (surge) occurring in the community.

Additional risk mitigation strategies when there are increasing numbers in the community of COVID-19 may include decreasing group numbers, staff wearing N95 respirator masks, reverting to online / telehealth sessions, introducing RAT testing or other strategies used previously during the pandemic.

Note if the outpatient session involves aerosol generating procedures / behaviours and /or severely immune compromised patient populations then additional risk mitigation strategies should be in place at all times (e.g., during low community transmission).

For more information

CALHN Allied Health Department / Program Lead Or

Site specific CALHN Infection Prevention and Control Unit

Hampstead Rehabilitation Centre

T: (08) 82221600

Repat Health Precinct (CALHN)

T: (08) 7326 1606

Royal Adelaide Hospital

T: (08) 7074 2801

The Queen Elizabeth Hospital

T: 8222 7588

Glenside Health Services (CALHN), Western

Community Mental Health Care, Elpidia

House or other CALHN Mental Health

community outpatient centres

T: Program Lead or RAH/TQEH IPCU.

This information sheet does not constitute medical advice and is for general information only. Readers should always seek independent professional advice where appropriate.

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