

UPDATE: 3/19/2020

As we continue to navigate the fluid situation of the novel coronavirus we continue to adjust and take the necessary precautions to keep our clients and their families safe. On 3/18/20, Bell County Judge David Blackburn placed the county under a local state of disaster. The decision makes it so no more than 50 people can gather in one place anywhere in the county beginning at midnight Wednesday and continuing until further notice.

We have officially moved into LEVEL 3 of the Bell County Coronavirus Alert/Action Plan. We continue to practice all recommendations from LEVEL 1 and LEVEL 2. We have received further direction on our clinic protocol from a Pediatric Infectious Disease specialist at Baylor Scott and White McLane's Children Medical Center and we will be implementing the following action plan immediately.

1. Prior to entering the clinic (curbside arrival), clients will undergo a specific questionnaire for travel from or through a level 3 zone (classified as a cruise ship or one of the countries on the CDC list—****see list) or traveled by plane in the last 14 days and/or if they have come into contact with someone who is currently being tested for Covid19 or tested positive for it. Anyone answering yes may not proceed with therapy.
2. If they pass the questionnaire, the child will be checked for signs and symptoms which includes persistent cough, sore throat and fever. Of note, sneezing is not included in these symptoms as we are entering the spring and many children have allergies. If any of these symptoms are present, the client may not proceed with therapy.
3. If there are no symptoms, the client's temperature will be taken (could be a thermal scanner or via tympany [ear]). If the temperature is less than 99.5, then the child may proceed with therapy.

If at any point the child fails any of the steps above, client may not proceed with therapy and is sent home.

While in therapy, there will not be more than 10 people per room per 1,000 sq. feet of space. When multiple people are in a room, each client will remain at least 6 feet apart from the other. Each session will begin with client and therapist washing hands for 20 seconds.

When the session is over, the therapy area will be thoroughly sanitized, and every therapist will wash their hands with soap and water. During therapy we will continue to practice hand washing for a minimum of 20 seconds with antibacterial soap once every 30 minutes as well as hourly sanitation of all surface areas (including door-knobs, cabinet handles, microwave/fridge handles, light switch covers, tables, chairs, toys, pens/pencils, electronics, etc.)

****Countries that have a [Level 3 Travel Health Notice](#)(widespread, ongoing transmission):

- China
- Iran
- South Korea
- Europe (Schengen Area): Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Monaco, San Marino, Vatican City
- United Kingdom and Ireland: England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Republic of Ireland

Clients will be required to stay home for 14 days from the time he/she left an area with widespread, ongoing community spread (Level 3 Travel Health Notice countries) and practice social distancing

For questions or immediate assistance please contact: Kristi Tindell 254-760-0494 ktindell@ctxbs.com

UPDATE: 3/16/2020

The health and safety of our clients, families as well as our staff continues to be our top priority. Currently, the CDC has made recommendations to organizers to cancel/postpone all in-person events that consist of 50 or more people for the next 8 weeks. Although this recommendation does not apply to the day to day operation of organizations such as schools, institutes of higher learning or businesses, the recommendation was made in an attempt to reduce the introduction of the virus in additional communities and to slow the spread of infection in communities that have already been affected (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/community/large-events/mass-gatherings-ready-for-covid-19.html>)

Happy Kids does not meet the threshold of 50+ people. However, we want to reassure our families that we continue to take all recommendations seriously and also follow the guidance for cleaning and sanitation given by the CDC. In addition to the previously communicated steps and measures in place, we will implement the following actions immediately.

1. Adult entry into the clinic will be restricted to staff only. ALL clients will be picked up and dropped off individually to parents/caregivers curbside. Clients and staff will sanitize hands prior to leaving the building and upon re-entry. Please text your therapist upon arrival for pick-up/drop-offs.
2. Temperature/Symptom Screening: Staff will screen clients upon entry into the clinic. We are lowering our body temperature threshold for fever to 99.5. Clients will need to be fever free based on this threshold without medications in order to attend therapy.
3. Clients and staff will adhere to a strict 30-minute hand washing cycle. We will be washing hands with antibacterial hand soap for a minimum of 20 seconds once every 30 minutes.
4. Therapy stations (including door-knobs, tables, chairs, toys, pens/pencils, electronics, etc.) will be sanitized multiple times per day, following the end of one therapy session and prior to the beginning of another.
5. If possible, please send snacks/lunches in disposable food containers to avoid sending containers back and forth.

Central Texas Behavioral Solutions is committed to providing support and services to our families even during uncertain times. We recognize this is an extremely fluid situation and appreciate your patience during this time. We continue to recognize the importance of keeping our services in place for our clients to the extent we can safely do so.

For questions or immediate assistance please contact:

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3/13/2020

The health and safety of our clients, families as well as our staff is our top priority. Our thoughts are with those impacted by the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) global pandemic. Since it first surfaced, we have been monitoring the situation closely and taking every precaution to keep our clients as well as our staff healthy and well.

With the effects of the outbreak being felt more each day, we wanted to reach out and share what we are doing to ensure the safety and health of all parties involved. At the present time we DO NOT have any plans to change our clinic-based services or close our facility. We will immediately suspend all community-based instruction until further notice. Although some organizations are closing most entities that deal with special populations and vulnerable populations are remaining open. Depending on how the situation develops, possible service alternatives may be explored. Happy Kids is committed to providing support and services to our families even during uncertain times and we recognize the importance of keeping our services in place for our clients.

What we are doing:

- The clinic is cleaned bi-weekly by a professional cleaning company and we recently increased the frequency of cleaning throughout the day with a focus on therapy rooms, equipment and toys.
- All employees are taking common-sense health precautions recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention ([CDC](#)), such as frequent hand washing or using alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol to stay healthy.
- Therapy rooms to include table, chairs and shared items/objects will be sanitized in between each client.
- A sanitizing station has been set up in the waiting area for clients to use as they enter the building.
- Sanitizing toys and surfaces if there is a client cancellation.
- Following company sick/fever policy. If we have a fever of 100.4 we will be staying at home and seeking medical attention if appropriate. We appreciate the incredible dedication of our staff but reminding them to stay home if they are ill and use our paid time-off options so they and their families do not suffer financially.

What we are asking you to do:

- Utilize the sanitizing station set up in the waiting area. Until further notice we will be limiting adult entry into the clinic.
- As military families, be mindful of potential exposure due to traveling, family members traveling, coming home from deployments, etc.... Please make us aware so we are able to take extra pre-cautions if necessary.
- As a precaution, considering our unique population if your child does not readily practice social courtesies such as covering their mouths while coughing and/or sneezing we do have medical masks available at the clinic upon request.
- Following company sick/fever policy. If your child has a fever of 100.4 or higher please stay at home and seek medical attention if appropriate. We appreciate the commitment you have to our services but will be strict regarding this matter. All clients must be 24-hours fever free prior to returning to the clinic.

All of these safeguards and precautions are made with you in mind. They are based on recommendations from local, state, and federal health officials whose experts who are working tirelessly to safeguard our health. We will continue to follow guidance from health agencies and government officials to maintain a safe and healthy environment at Happy Kids.

As with other organizations, we encourage to get the scientific facts about COVID-19 and follow recommended practices for protecting themselves and others against all respiratory viruses.