

April 2022

Fairview Osteopathy

Communicable disease prevention plan

This plan outlines rules of conduct and expectations of patients as well as practitioners at FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY. This document is to inform the public of protocols in place to reduce the risk of exposure to communicable diseases (including Covid-19) while at FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY. Asymptomatic transmission of communicable diseases is an unavoidable risk of practice.

The information in this document is to meet the requirements of various provincial regulators, OsteopathyBC and the Ministry of Health. These protocols may be updated to adhere to provincial health guidelines should they change. This document will be made available to WorksafeBC or Public Health representatives upon request.

Efforts to Reduce Transmission – Summary of guidelines

The overall aim of these protocols is to reduce potential communicable disease transmission using the following methods:

- **Screening:** Require ongoing self-assessment for signs of communicable diseases related illness from both patient and practitioner
- **Distancing:** Reduce all non-treatment related physical interactions amongst all people within the practice environment
- **Hygiene:** Hand hygiene requirements, avoiding face-touching, practice enhanced cleaning protocols, appropriate use of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- **Consent & Professional Obligations:** Meet professional obligations, particularly related to informed consent and liability insurance

Screening – patients & practitioners

To ensure the safety of vulnerable populations to communicable diseases FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY continues to remind clients and practitioners to screen themselves for symptoms prior to appointments.

- A screening survey will be sent and completed prior to appointments to FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY.
- We ask that clients with symptoms of a communicable disease, clients waiting for a Covid19 test result or with a Covid19 positive test notify us and reschedule their appointments.

Vulnerable people may include, but are not limited to, those who are: over 70 years of age, diabetic, immunosuppressed, undergoing treatment for cancer, pregnant, suffering from cardiovascular disease and or more vulnerable to an existing condition of any kind.

Symptoms of a communicable disease can include fever or chills, recent onset of cough, diarrhea or any flu-like symptoms: patients are advised to reschedule their appointment and phone 8-1-1 if they feel any of these symptoms.

For more details and guidelines for communicable diseases prevention and planning please consult updates on provincial sites:

BC provincial sites for more information regarding current guidelines:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions>

And for information regarding self-monitoring or self-isolating:

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/self-isolation>

Physical Distancing

Common spaces - lobby, elevators & bathrooms

Be attentive to the signage in the entrance of the building at 805 West Broadway. The current status is that masks are recommend/optional. Elevators have no posted limits. Please be mindful of others, there are vulnerable people (sometimes not visibly vulnerable) visiting the building.

Reception area

- It is recommended that you wear a face covering but it is not mandatory.
- If there is another person waiting in the reception, please consider keeping your face covering on.
- Currently practitioners have a staggered schedule which ensure less congestion in the reception area.
- Patients will wash their hands in FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY's staffroom area or use the sanitizer provided in the reception area.
- If the client doesn't have a face covering and wishes to wear one the clinic will provide one.

Treatment rooms:

The nature of the therapeutic practices at FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY means that within the treatment room physical distancing is not possible. For treatment to commence the practitioner and patient must agree that the therapeutic benefit of therapy outweighs any potential risks or consequences of treatment, including the possibility of communicable disease transmission.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Provincial Health guidelines require wearing a mask for medical visits. Osteopathy Manual Treatment is currently an unregulated modality, thus falls into the category of a private business. In some public indoor setting wearing PPE is **recommended, but not mandatory**. Due to these factors FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY practitioners will continue to wear face coverings during treatment. Clients have the option to wear or not wear a face covering in treatment. **However, should a client be monitoring for symptoms of a communicable disease (had an exposure to a symptomatic individual), we ask that the client then wear a face covering. We request that up to 5 days post air travel and cruise ship travel clients also wear a face covering for their appointment.**

Intraoral procedures: will be possible with client consent and only if no alternative strategy is available to the practitioner.

Intraoral protocol:

- Practitioner sanitizes hands, puts on face shield (face covering is already in place) and then non latex gloves
- Client sanitizes hands and then removes their mask (if applicable)
- Practitioner performs non aerosol intraoral procedure
- Practitioner removes gloves & sanitizes hands
- Client replaces their face covering/mask (if applicable) for the remainder of the treatment & sanitizes hands (provided by practitioner)
- Practitioner removes their face shield & sanitizes (shield sanitized at end of treatment)

Hygiene / Cleaning

Building lobby, elevators & restrooms

- All are maintained by the building management and cleaning teams. Please voice any concerns you may have.

Fairview Osteopathy reception area

- Touch points are sanitized regularly.
- Clients are requested to sanitize (in the reception) or wash their hands with soap and water (at FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY's sink) prior to treatment upon arrival.

Treatment rooms - Enhanced cleaning between clients

- Time has been scheduled between patients to allow for thorough cleaning and ventilation of the treatment rooms.
- Surfaces will be cleaned and disinfected using either an alcohol-based sanitizing cleaner or Vert-2-Go (non-odorous, eco-friendly and made in Canada).
- Points of contact may include and are not limited to plastic hangers, wall splash guard area, treatment tables, any payment devices used, practitioner stool, clinic floor, door handles, shields if used, pillows, light switches, electronic devices, table surfaces, chairs, stools, faucets, etc.

- All linens, including blankets and pillowcases are single use only and will be laundered using a professional launderer using industry standard practices.
- The practitioner will wash or sanitize hands between patients, before and after disinfecting spaces, and before donning or doffing PPE like gloves, face coverings, or shields.

Consent

Regarding current communicable disease risks, informed consent requires that the patient be informed and understands that:

- Any manual therapy treatments involve some risk of communicable disease transmission
- The practitioner is following a protocol to help reduce or mitigate risk where possible, but that risk cannot be reduced to zero
- The patient consents to the treatment despite some risk and the patient releases the practitioner, clinic, and additional insured parties (building management companies controlling public space at 805 West Broadway) from all liability related to communicable exposure or illness

Our insurance providers have informed us that coverage for patient claims concerning communicable disease exposure related to a visit to our clinic does not exist, the patient must understand there is risk of communicable disease exposure, and the patient agrees to assume that risk when visiting FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY.

Liability Insurance

All practitioners that work at FAIRVIEW OSTEOPATHY have professional liability insurance appropriate for our line of work.