



CRISALIDA

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, ADULT & FAMILY THERAPY

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3H 2022- CRISALIDA CLIENTS AND FAMILIES/CARERS

INFORMED CONSENT FOR IN-CLINIC/DIRECT SERVICE DURING INCREASED COVID-19 /OMICRON TRANSMISSION IN THE COMMUNITY - AS OF JANUARY 2022

This form provides updated information to clients/families/carers about the current potential risks and associated procedures required for direct care/face-to-face services provided in both our Preston and Thornbury clinics, in light of the new wave of Omicron infections.

We ask that all clients/families/carers read and sign their acknowledgment of this updated information, in order to ensure informed service provision and a safe environment for all.

Crisalida staff will make every effort to ensure clinic environments, practices and protocols are safe and that we follow all of the current Victorian Health Department Guidelines. In order to look after our therapists, other staff, and all community members who attend the clinics, we require everyone onsite to be aware of the risks associated with attending the clinics in person, and their responsibilities to assist us to keep each other as safe as possible.

Although we will be taking all steps possible to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19 within our Crisalida clinics, current transmission rates are high in the community, despite vaccination status. It must also be acknowledged that our services are predominantly Child and Adolescent in nature. Whilst children aged 5-11 are now eligible to be vaccinated, it will be some time before there is significant coverage, and so 35-40% of our clients remain significantly vulnerable. This means we are unable to reduce the risk of Covid-19 entering the clinic as low as with some other, more adult-based services.

It also means we must do all we can do to reduce transmission, to increase safety for the many young people with underlying and comorbid health conditions who are part of this group - particularly relevant given the number of children who attend Crisalida who present either with a disability, underlying health conditions, or both.

We ask that you consider your decision to return to in-clinic services in the context of this inherent risk and how it relates to yourself and any vulnerabilities you, or your family members, may have. Crisalida therapists will be continuing to provide telehealth services to any clients/families who wish to continue to access support in this way, for as long as is required to support our community to stay safe. **IF TELEHEALTH HAS BEEN A SUITABLE OPTION, PLEASE USE THIS WHERE POSSIBLE**, although we also understand that many clients require direct care/face to face sessions.

What steps will be taken by Crisalida independent contractors and employed clinical and administrative staff to reduce the risks that do exist?

- All Crisalida staff, both employed or contractor, clinical or administration, are fully vaccinated - with the exception of one clinician who has a formal medical exemption. This staff member will remain on telehealth for now.
- Checking in with the QR Code every time the staff member attends the clinic
- Hand sanitising/hand hygiene entering and leaving rooms AND before/after sessions will be practiced
- Equipment cleaning before and after each session
- Wearing of surgical grade, disposable face masks, and face shield where possible (or as required by current guidelines), and replacing of facemasks at least four hourly, or more often, as directed by the guidelines.
- Holding sessions outside if possible and minimizing people in the room (1 therapist, 1 client)



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- Small group therapy sessions within density quotients with informed consent (drop off outside of clinic where possible to minimise traffic)
- Physical distancing where possible, and adhering to formally dictated density limits for each room in each clinic. If displaying any COVID-19 symptoms or awaiting test results – any staff member/therapist will not attend the clinic or will leave the clinic immediately. Scheduled clients will be informed ASAP, and given the option of telehealth or rescheduling.

What steps are to be taken by the client/family/carer to reduce these risks?

- Completing and returning this form, prior to attending face-to-face services in the clinic from January 2022.
- Check in with the QR code at the entrance to each site every time you attend one of the clinics
- Hand sanitising on entry and exit from premises
- Wearing of face masks is required for all clients 8 years and older, unless an exemption can be supplied - surgical grade recommended (unless infant or child is under 8 years old). Masks for children younger than 8 are recommended but optional.
- Those 8 and over who are unable to wear a mask AND have an exemption will be asked to provide evidence of vaccination for COVID-19 - as a means of secondary protection when a mask is not able to be worn.
- Individuals 8 and over who are unable/unwilling to wear a mask, and who cannot provide evidence of vaccination, will continue to be provided services via Telehealth at this time - until vaccination rates and case numbers in the community indicate the risk has been reduced considerably and it is safe enough to relax this condition. We will be guided by the Victorian Government advice.
- Physical distancing where possible of 1.5 metres - you may be asked to wait outside for your appointment/to collect your child if waiting areas become too crowded.
- Please advise Crisalida IMMEDIATELY of any Covid-19 exposure risk to staff/clients at Crisalida that has occurred due to your/your family's attendance at the clinic. Please do not hesitate - we seek only to inform everyone as soon as possible to ensure as much safety as possible. Please make contact as soon as possible via phone and email to reception AND your individual therapist, so additional clients and clinicians with potential exposure risk can be advised.
- Appointments will be postponed, reverted to telehealth or, non face to face services such as resource development or report writing if the above occurs/a client has COVID-19 symptoms/is awaiting test results.

Written consent form:

- I agree to direct / face-to-face services at one of the Crisalida clinics in Preston/Thornbury during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will adhere to the Victorian Government restrictions.
- I understand the risks associated with returning to face-to-face services at Crisalida clinics.
- I agree to **immediately** inform my therapist and Crisalida reception of
 - a/ any exposure to a person with COVID-19, or
 - b/ my having attended the clinic during the 5 days prior to confirmation of contracting Covid-19 or showing symptoms of the virus associated with a confirmed diagnosis.
- I agree to inform my therapist if I have symptoms of COVID-19 or feel unwell. I understand that in this case face-to-face sessions will be suspended until I have received a negative test result, reverting to Telehealth for this period if that is what is deemed appropriate by my therapist and myself. I agree to isolate for the 7 days as required and **ideally return to clinics 10 days or more post exposure/diagnosis, without any symptoms**, reducing risks as much as possible.



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CLIENT/PARENT/CARER print full name _____

signature _____

date _____

More information regarding COVID-19 can be found here from the Victorian Government

<https://www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/>

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/coronavirus>