

### **3I - CRISALIDA CLIENTS AND FAMILIES/CARERS INFORMED CONSENT FOR OFF-SITE DIRECT SERVICE DURING INCREASED COVID-19 EXPOSURE - FROM January 2022**

This form is to provide updated information to clients and families/ carers about potential risks associated with direct care via face-to-face services provided in off-site settings during this new wave of Covid-19 Omicron infections.

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

Crisalida staff will make every effort to ensure their professional and therapeutic practices and protocols when attending client's homes 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 access our services, we require everyone to be aware of the risks associated with accessing services 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, it must 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 therefore approximately 35-40% of our clients remain significantly vulnerable. This means we are unable to reduce the risk of Covid-19 entering the clinic as much as with some other adult-based services. Please consider that by inviting a Crisalida therapist into your home, you are increasing the risk for your own family members.**

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 access Crisalida who present either with a disability, underlying health conditions, or both.

We ask that you consider your decision to return to face-to-face 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

#### **What steps will be taken by Crisalida and its independent contractors and employed therapists when arranging home visits, 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 and will NOT be undertaking home visits.
- Hand sanitising/hand cleaning hygiene upon entering and leaving client's premises, and as needed.
- 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 prior to attendance at a new location.
- Holding sessions outside if at all possible, and minimizing people in the room (1 therapist, 1 client)
- Physical distancing where possible, and adhering to formally dictated density limits - consulting in larger, well-ventilated spaces where at all possible.



- If displaying any COVID-19 symptoms or awaiting test results – the therapist will not attend the appointment/leave the premises immediately. The therapist will then take a test for Covid-19, and the client will be informed of the result as soon as it is received.

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

- Completing and returning this form, prior to scheduled home visit services from January, 2021.
- If a home visit is to occur inside the premises, evidence of full vaccination (vaccine certificate) of all household members 12 years and over is to be provided to the therapist prior to their attendance at the home.
  - We recommend that children aged 5-11 have their first vaccination as soon as possible.
- If there are individuals 12 and over who are unvaccinated in the household, and the home visit is unable to occur outside, home visits are currently unavailable due to safety concerns at this time. These clients may access services at one of our clinics, or via telehealth until public health concerns have eased.
  - Hand sanitising at commencement and completion of the session.
  - Wearing of face masks is required for all clients 8 and older, unless an exemption can be supplied - surgical grade recommended (unless infant or child 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 full vaccination for COVID-19 - as a means of secondary protection when a mask is not able to be worn.
  - If home visits are not possible due to the above constraints, individuals 8 and over who are unable/unwilling to wear a mask, and who cannot provide evidence of full 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 Victorian Government advice.
- Physical distancing where possible of 1.5metres
  - Please advise Crisalida IMMEDIATELY of any Covid-19 exposure risk that has occurred for the attending therapist. 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 or converted to telehealth if above occurs/a client has COVID-19 symptoms/is awaiting test results.

### **Written consent form:**

- I agree to direct / face-to-face services at home during the COVID-19 pandemic, and will adhere to the Victorian Government restrictions and Crisalida guidelines.
- I understand the risks associated with returning to face-to-face services with therapists attending my home.
- I confirm that **all** members of my household who are eligible are vaccinated against COVID-19
- I agree to **immediately** inform my therapist and Crisalida reception of
  - a/ any exposure to a person with COVID-19, or
  - b/ a therapist having attended my home 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.



**CRISALIDA**

CHILD, ADOLESCENT, ADULT & FAMILY THERAPY

CLIENT/PARENT/CARER print full name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_