

We are excited to announce that we are ready to resume a limited amount of in-person services beginning Tuesday, May 19th, 2020!

We have created a comprehensive re-opening plan based on data and best practice:

Phase 1: Preparation

This phase consisted of obtaining adequate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE: masks, gloves, face shields) and sanitation supplies (hand sanitizer, virucide, disinfectant). We have touchless thermometers for screenings. We created new policies and procedures for using PPE, training employees, restricting clinic space, and phasing in employees gradually. We also surveyed select parents on returning in-person services.

Phase 2: Limited In-Person Services *Begins May 20th, 2020*

See below sections for details.

Phase 3: Increased In-Person Services

This phase includes allowing patients to resume in-person services based on preference, increased quantity of staff returning to clinic, maintaining many of the PPE & sanitizing protocols as phase 2, less restrictions of utilizing clinic space. All families will be called to discuss when they will be allowed to resume therapy. Unless our team has called you, therapy will continue on telehealth. A date for this phase to begin has not been established.

Phase 4: Primarily In-Person Services

Each family will be called to discuss when your child will resume services. Our waiting room will re-open and maintain social distance. Staff will be integrated back into the clinic. PPE protocols will be modified as appropriate for the conditions advised by MN government and CDC. A date for this phase to begin has not been established.

Phase 5: Regular Therapy Services

Services will resume as usual. Telehealth will be utilized for outpatient clients to remove the barrier of distance, illness, and schedule as approved by their insurance company. PPE will be utilized per pre-COVID-19 protocols. Socially distancing, and daily screening will have ended. Equipment will be on regular sanitizing schedules. A date for this phase to begin has not been established.

Phase Two – Who Can Resume In-Person Services?

We are prioritizing patients treated through our outpatient setting who have:

1. Been unable to participate in Telehealth for any reason.
2. A clinical need for in-person services. This recommendation will be at the discretion of your therapy provider. Please ask your provider if you are interested in resuming in-person services.
3. If your child can receive services through Telehealth and there is not a clinical need for your child to resume in person services, we ask that you remain receiving services through Telehealth at this time. Phase 3 of our reopening plan will accommodate patients how prefer to receive in-person services.

Phase Two - What to Expect

The waiting room is closed!

1. The front door will be monitored and there may not be a receptionist working at the front desk.
2. Your therapy provider will meet you at the front door. Only one parent/caregiver allowed with the child in the clinic.
 - Please bring your child to the front entrance and wait with them during the screening process.
 - If you are unable to bring your child without siblings, please call 763-595-0812 prior to the appointment to alert the therapist that you need your child to be picked up in the parking lot.
3. Allow your child to independently participate in therapy when possible to limit the number of people in the clinic. Each therapist and child will work together in one treatment room and only one child will be allowed in the gym at a time.

Screenings

1. Every person (clients and staff) will be screened at the front door.
2. Temperatures will be taken and recorded by a touchless thermometer. Anyone with a temperature over 99.5F will not be permitted to participate in therapy or enter the clinic. While the CDC recommends 100.4F or higher as the baseline temperature, MPTC finds that most children who fall into the 99.5F or higher do not do well in therapy (based on our own clinical judgement/anecdotal evidence) and most often end up with a higher fever within the next day or two. Thus, we prefer a lower temperature as our best practice guideline.
3. Each person will be asked screening questions as related to COVID-19 symptoms. An adult will need to answer / confirm answers of minors and sign off at each session.

Clients & PPE

1. All people will remove their shoes upon entering the clinic as they are considered to be a cross contaminant. Please bring a bag to carry your child's shoes into the session.
2. All people must sanitize their hands immediately upon entering MPTC with hand sanitizer.
3. All clients (2yr+) and accompanying adults will be asked to wear cloth masks when entering the clinic and walking through the hallways. ** The mask may be taken off during the session if the child / adult is seated 6 feet away from the therapist and the therapist is wearing the face shield and acrylic barrier.
4. If you have a cloth mask at home, we ask that you bring this mask for yourself and child.
 - Here is a video about making a mask.
 - Sew version kids mask:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TiKiVjpixhk&feature=youtu.be>
 - No sew kids mask.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uaPXRC588cY&feature=youtu.be>
 - If your child receives speech therapy, you may consider making them a mask with a clear video of their mouth movements like THIS ONE.
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Pk7hMTtOEq6BIIUys82RAuDs7oxD7fe4/view>
 - Don't forget to wash your cloth masks before/after therapy.
5. Prepare your child for wearing a mask before your appointment
 - Watch videos about masks.
 - We Wear Masks by Mike McGovern
 - Read social stories.
 - Wearing a Mask Social Story by ASERT
 - Practice wearing a mask for 30-60 minutes daily.
 - You may need to begin practicing with 5 minutes and extend time based on tolerance.
 - Use a timer to practice.
 - Use a video at a specific length of time to practice.
 - If your child refuses to wear a mask, they will **not** be refused treatment.
 - They will continue to be offered to try a mask each visit.
 - Keep practicing at home

Staff & PPE

1. Our staff will be wearing the following:
 - 3 ply Masks (cloth masks are not permitted for health care providers to wear)
 - Gloves
 - Face shields or Goggles
 - No shoes (or designated sanitized work shoes to prevent cross contamination)
 - Scrubs – staff may be wearing scrubs instead of regular street clothes
2. Prepare your child for therapists wearing PPE.
 - Seeing Other People Wear Masks.
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B2FEF1DTXpmgH8ZL79Vg7E_Bu7ZOkB0A/view?fbclid=IwAR2H5ZrUYqEHRPOLo5SHenZmh1PQCaad1GAZIVv3Q0YbOttoaMYyqrvv1bw
 - Wearing a mask and gloves <https://conscioussdiscipline.s3.amazonaws.com/Free-Resources/Printable-Posters-Tools-Activities/FREE-Printable-Masks-and-Gloves-Social-Story.pdf>

Sanitation and Other Modifications

1. PPE Stations
 - The clinic will have fully stocked PPE stations at the entrance and each therapy treatment room, the kitchen, gym, and staff office
 - All staff will be replacing PPE as needed throughout the day.
2. Hand sanitation
 - All staff will be sanitizing their hands before/after each glove change.
 - All staff are assigned hand sanitizer
 - All staff and clients will wash their hands with soap and water for at minimum 20 seconds on the way into the treatment room and when therapy is over
 - Hand sanitizer will be used during therapy if needed.
3. All treatment rooms will be stocked with hand sanitizer and disinfectant spray.
4. Treatment rooms and equipment will be sanitized immediately after use by hand sanitizer, disinfectant spray, virucide, UVC etc.
5. We have a designated person in the clinic to assist with increased sanitizing protocols.
6. Fabric equipment (swings, crash pads etc.) will not be used. The crash pad in the ball pool has a wipeable covering that will be cleaned after each use. No fabric toys will be used.
7. Patients who typically work on feeding in the clinic need additional considerations. This will be address through Telehealth when possible during this phase of re-opening.
 - Feeding therapists may have parents stay in the room to assist.
 - No blowing activities will be permitted at this time.
8. Specific areas of the clinic will be limited to only staff (example: kitchen).
9. Only one client will be allowed in the therapy gym to play unless the other child is just walking through the gym and they must practice social distancing.

Limited In Person Therapy Resumes

10. Therapy materials, mats, chairs, tables, etc. will be cleaned with products already used in the clinic that meet the guidelines presented by the CDC / US Department of Health
11. All staff will be practicing social distancing and will continue attending meetings virtually vs in person meetings in the gym.
12. Staff will gradually transition from remote work to in person work based on the need for in person services.
 - o Administrative staff will continue to work from home when possible.
 - o Therapists who have full caseloads through Telehealth will continue to work remotely.

Resources:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/>