

Risk Assessment for COVID – 19 Hazard at Mendip Chiropractic Whilst Undertaking Work Activities.

The practice will endeavour to keep up to date with guidelines of the government and chiropractic governing bodies (GCC, CoC & AUKC) which are anticipated to change over the following months.

This Assessment was carried out over the week commencing June 1st 2020 and updated on 18/6/20

Hazard: 1) An Infected person (staff or client) entering the workplace
Who is at risk/ how: Staff, clients and then the wider public. An infected person enters the workplace and passes the virus to others either directly or by contaminating the workplace.
Controls to limit risk: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• From opening date, only essential staff to be present – chiropractor and reception when necessary, client and chaperone if social distancing can be reasonably adhered to. Until July at least, we will be open for fewer hours without all team members, to get proficient with new practice arrangements, prioritising clients on need and limiting local foot fall while r values drop further.• Reception area toys, reading material and refreshments removed. (Sign indicating that water can be requested).• Patient information posters displayed about hygiene and staying away if infection is suspected.• Clients/potential clients are pre-screened before visiting, concerning need, vulnerability, signs of infection and to enable hygiene/distancing protocol information (timely arrival, social distancing from others at clinic and, subject to consent the likelihood that the clinical exam and treatment will breach distancing guidelines) as well as reassurance and reinforcement of increased hygiene measures).• Extremely vulnerable groups will not be seen at present.• Vulnerable groups will be identified. Will be seen at times likely to be quiet and based on discussions before arrival with them about special steps that can be taken (how will they get here, have they got a mask they can bring. They will be assigned a treatment room based on use in the last few hours so they go to a room of minimal use. Additional ppe and draping of gowns to be considered.• All clients on first visit since lockdown are to read and complete an additional form “Patient Information and Consent Form. Risk of Coronavirus (COVID-19) Transmission at Mendip Chiropractic”. Chiropractic support staff will remind about this form and ask if there is any change to the client’s situation (health or link with vulnerable groups) and that they still agree.• Un-announced arrivals are dealt with promptly if contamination to others can be minimise (e.g. appointment arranged subject to suitability if reception area is not busy) otherwise phone numbers can be exchanged for contact later.• Distancing in the waiting area has been established with seating, perspex screen, staff will ensure adherence to social distancing rules and use perspex barrier appropriately.• No handshaking. Patients encouraged to use hand sanitiser on arrival and leaving.• Face to face consultations – history or report of findings are at a social distance, using the ventilated rooms (ventilation system continuously on). Doors opened and room/ equipment cleaned afterwards.• Chiropractor mindful of increased risk to clients from saliva droplets during conversation when client supine on bench. Effort should be made to stand at foot of bench at these times / and consider mask as well as gowns/ aprons. Clothing to be changed after each shift.• Clinician to wash hands between clients and use paper towels. A hand washing station has been added in addition to the alcohol gels.• Gov guidance on hygiene adhered to

- Surfaces (door handles, chairs etc) to be cleaned after client has left/ moved to a different area. Special attention paid to area around bench head-rest.
- Separate pens for clients udebtufued. Pens clean after use.
- Appointment times increased to allow time for cleaning and social distancing.
- This information is shared and reiterated regularly with team members.

Consequence of contamination: Low to medium - risk of short-term illness and disability but this may increase in vulnerable groups (over 70, pregnant, overweight, medical conditions) see below.
Likelihood of contamination: Medium – this appears reasonably likely to occur

Adequately controlled. Yes

Hazard: 2) Proximity in the workplace

Who is at risk/ how: Staff, clients due to working in close proximity with others.

Social distancing measured followed as per gov guidelines and detailed in section one where possible.

Non-clinical staff maintain social distancing. And implement

Clinical staff only to brech social distancing guidelines and measures of section 1 during treatment deemed medically necessary. Routine maintenance for asymptomatic clients to be avoided currently.

Need of client's assessed initially by chiropractor or support staff briefly on phone as per chiropractor guidance. Needs then assessed in greater detail at visit before considering breaking distancing guideline.

Appropriate PPE considered according to advice and guidelines and client preferences.

Consequence of contamination: Low to medium - risk of short-term illness and disability but this may increase in vulnerable groups (over 70, pregnant, overweight, medical conditions) see below.

Likelihood of contamination: Medium – this appears reasonably likely to occur

Adequately controlled. Yes

Hazard 3) A person at the workplace shows signs of becoming ill with COVID 19

Who is at risk/ how: Staff & clients, wider public from infection.

Controls to limit risk:

- Government guidelines adhered too.
- Person removed from building and sent home with help if necessarily and gov guidelines followed.
- Session cancelled and no further started until disinfecting and contacts between the person and others at the practice has been noted and likelihood of contamination assessed for risk of transmission.
- If person found likely to have COVID, encouraged to follow isolation guidelines and contacts to be informed encouraged to follow guidelines.
- Building disinfected according to guidelines.

Consequence of contamination: Low to medium - risk of short-term illness and disability but this may increase in vulnerable groups (over 70, pregnant, overweight, medical conditions) see below.

Likelihood of contamination: Medium – this appears reasonably likely to occur

Adequately controlled. Yes

Hazard 4) Vulnerable team members or their vulnerable contacts.
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Who is at risk/ how: Vulnerable contacts from transmission of COVID 19 e.g. from contaminated work place to elderly relative..

Controls to limit risk:

Staff members have discussed and vulnerable contacts identified. If social distancing guidelines to protect these members cannot no longer be followed, staff member to be furloughed.
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Consequence of contamination: Medium to high- risk of serious illness, hospitalisation or death within vulnerable groups.
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Likelihood of contamination: Low – this appears unlikely due to distancing and shielding measures and staff situations.

Adequately controlled? Yes

Hazard 5) Information failure.

Who is at risk/how? Staff and clients - not being aware of risk or procedure changes

Controls to limit risk. Sue Nash appointed COVID monitor to monitor and update on changes.

Consequences of contamination. Medium risk. Likelihood of – medium.
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Adequately controlled? Yes
