## *Considerations for a COVID-Safe Office for Psychotherapy*

Re-open and Maintain Your In-Person Office Responsibly

#### **Oregon Psychological Association**

2021 Annual Conference May 1, 11am to 12 noon

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- 1. <u>Ethical Considerations For A COVID-Safe</u> Office (March 23, 2021)
- 2. <u>COVID-19 Re-Open & Maintain Your Practice</u> <u>- Training (July 2020)</u>
- 3. <u>COVID-19 Safe Air Quality For Psychotherapy</u> <u>Practice – Training (Release date: May, 2021)</u>
- 4. <u>COVID Safe Home Considerations (November 15,</u> 2020)

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#### Hom

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Eltense Ethical Considerations For A COVID-Safe Office COVID-19 Re-Open & Maintain Your Practice Training COVID-19 Safe Air Quality For Psychotherapy Practice Training COVID Safe Home

Considerations The Role Of Patient Reported Outcome Measures In Mental

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Resource papers on COVID-19 considerations

## Mentor Research Institute

RESEARCH & PRACTITIONER TRAINING DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

# www.MentorResearch.Org

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#### This training is aligned with 13 authoritative resources...

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- 1. American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidance for COVID-19 (January 2021)
- 2. American Professional Agency The Nuts and Bolts of Reopening your Practice after COVID-19 (May 2020)
- 3. InterOrganizational Practice Committee (IOPC): Guidance Recommendation for Models of Care During the Novel Coronavirus Pandemic (September 30, 2020).
- 4. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Response Resources form ASHRAE and others
- 5. APA COVID-19 Information and Resources
- 6. COVID-19 (2019 novel coronavirus) Resource Center for Physicians
- 7. Department of Labor OSHA Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 (May 2020)
- 8. OSHA Healthcare Workers and Employers
- 9. OSHA COVID-19 Hazard Recognition
- 10. American Psychiatric Association Practice Guidance for COVID-19 (January 2021)
- 11..COVID-19 and Oregon OSHA
- 12. Steps Healthcare Facilities Can Take to Stay Prepared for COVID-19
- 13. Factors to Consider in Reopening In-person Psychological Services During the COVID-19 Crisis (May 7, 2020)

Research, writing & development of the technology for MRI COVID safety trainings has consumed 498 hours (and counting).



# How long will SARS-CoV-2 be a problem?

Depending on science and geopolitical factors -> 3 to 20+ years

#### The Pandemic may already be Endemic

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Are you already seeing or planning to see patients in-person?

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In New York... "Some psychotherapists who want to discuss seeing patients in-person have encountered what may be a growing faulty group think."

The result of the group think is "Don't ask. Don't tell".

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## How do people make the wrong decision?



Herd Mentality - The follow what other people are doing.



Selection Bias - support evidence that will make their wishes come true.

Declarative Reasoning - They ignore 1<sup>st</sup> principles reasoning.

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Failed "Committee"ExReasoning BasedA:on DeclarationsDid 3, reason		Exa Ass Did 3,50 reasonin	kamples of Healthcare Work Tasks ssociated with Exposure Risk Levels 500 nurses die because of committees that relied of declarative ning and not science and engineering?			
Lower (caution)	Medic	ím	VERY High	Very High		
<ul> <li>Performing administrative duties in non-public areas of healthcare facilities, away from other staff members.</li> <li>Note: For activities in the lower (caution) risk category, OSHA's Interim Guidance for Workers and Employers of Workers at Lower Risk of Exposure may be most appropriate.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Providing car general publ are not know suspected CC patients.</li> <li>Working at b work areas w healthcare far</li> </ul>	re to the ic who vn or OVID-19 ousy staff vithin a acility.	<ul> <li>Entering a known or suspected COVID-19 patient's room.</li> <li>Providing care for a known or suspected COVID-19 patient not involving aerosol- generating procedures.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Performing aerosol-generating procedures (e.g., intubation, cough induction procedures, bronchoscopies, some dental procedures and exams, or invasive specimen collection) on known or suspected COVID-19 patients.</li> <li>Collecting or handling specimens from known or suspected COVID-19 patients.</li> </ul>		
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The following are assertions for consideration based on evidence and science.

#### There is no conclusion.

Physics > atmospheric science > epidemiology > biostatistics > engineering > ethics > psychotherapy

The Argumentative Theory: Predictions and Empirical Evidence, Hugo Mercier Trends in Cognitive Science, 2016. https://drive.google.com/file/d/12prGJndZqwZ1uBJ864fS86sfQOdrd0Kb/view

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## According to the CDC

- Indoor visits or small <u>gatherings</u> likely represent minimal risk to fully vaccinated people.
- What is minimal risk?
- Is minimal acceptable?
- https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinatedguidance.html

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## According to CCD Guidelines

Revised: April 10, 2021

#### Vaccination means

CDC Issues First Set of Guidelines on How Fully Vaccinated People Can Visit Safely with Others

Pre-Infection is No Protection Against South African Variant

- It will probably keep you out of an intensive care unit in a hospital for the current predominant strains.
- 5 out of 100 vaccinated ipeople will end up in a hospital (approximately).
- You may refrain from quarantine and testing if you do not have symptoms of COVID-19 after contact with someone who has COVID-19.
- . You can still have Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-A, MIS-C).
- . New strains are showing greater infectivity, severity and/or reinfection rates.
- 6. You should not gather with people who do not live close by.
- You can visit with other fully vaccinated people indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart.
- You can visit with unvaccinated people from one other household indoors without wearing masks or staying 6 feet apart if everyone in the other household is at low risk for severe disease.
- 9. You can still become a carrier.
- 10. Infection rates among children is increasing with new strains.

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COVID-19 Vaccines vs Variants— How Much Immunity Is Enough

JAMA, March 2021

#### B.1.351, B.1.1.7 & SARS-CoV-2

- "...nearly all vaccines used in humans prevent asymptomatic infection and spread."
- "In general, vaccines that are effective in reducing infections do have major impacts on reducing transmission,"
- "...In March, Pfizer and BioNTech announced that non-peer-reviewed data from Israel showed their vaccine was 94% effective against asymptomatic SARS-CoV-2 infection."
- Modifying vaccines to target variants isn't difficult. For example, with Pfizer-BioNTech's and Moderna's mRNA vaccines, "it's very convenient, because, basically, all you do is change a computer program and the synthetic for the synthesizing portion of this and you can change the vaccine,"



# The **first** thing you need is...

a method to **ethically screen out patients** who represent an unacceptable risk.

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Do you have <b>a w</b>	veakened or compromised immune system?		
Yes			
No			
ВАСК	Question 2 of 46	NEXT	
Comprehe	nsive Screening: 46 questio	ns	
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Good job, you have completed your questionnaire. Please copy or write down the below code and give it to your provider.

### zMFGccl

CONTINUE TO DISPLAY RESULTS

You may now close the tab or window.

After completing the questionnaire the user is given an access code and can print the results.



		Confidenti	al Report	
Ar	onymous Questio	onnaire Summary		Evample Papert
Ac	cess Code	since summary	zMEGcol	Ехаптріе керогі
CO	VID-19 Health Risks sc	ore:	1	
Co	vid-19 Symptoms v1.6	score:	25	
co	VID-19 Exposure v1.8 s	score:	19	
co	VID-19 Activity v1.4 sco	ore:	6	
со	VID-19 and Flu Vaccina	tions score:	1	<b>C</b>
Ad tha pro	OVID-19 Health Ri ults of any age with the t causes COVID-19. Pa blems, are more likely t	sks following conditions are atients with weakened im when infected and to hav	at increased risk of severe illness from the virus mune system, and any underlying health a severe illness.	should have a
0	No	Do you have	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems?	moderate to high
0 0	No No	Do you have Do you have	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system?	rate of false
0 0 1	No No Yes	Do you have Do you have Are you	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system? mildly, moderately or severely overweight?	rate of <u>false</u>
0 0 1 0	No No Yes No	Do you have Do you have Are you Do you have	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system? mildly, moderately or severely overweight? a history of kidney or liver problems?	rate of <u>false</u> positives.
0 0 1 0 0	No Yes No No	Do you have Do you have Are you Do you have Are you	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system? mildly, moderately or severely overweight? a history of kidney or liver problems? a current or former cigarette, cigar or other tobacco smoker?	rate of <u>false</u> positives.
0 1 0 0	No Yes No No	Do you have Do you have Are you Do you have Are you Are you	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system? mildly, moderately or severely overweight? a history of kidney or liver problems? a current or former cigarette, cigar or other tobacco smoker? diabetic or pre-diabetic?	rate of <u>false</u> positives.
0 1 0 0 0	No Yes No No No	Do you have Do you have Are you Do you have Are you Are you Do you have	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system? mildly, moderately or severely overweight? a history of kidney or liver problems? a current or former cigarette, cigar or other tobacco smoker? diabetic or pre-diabetic? cancer or been treated for cancer?	rate of <u>false</u> positives.
0 1 0 0 0 0	No Yes No No No	Do you have Do you have Are you Do you have Are you Do you have Do you have	a history of asthma, lung disease or breathing problems? a weakened or compromised immune system? mildly, moderately or severely overweight? a history of kidney or liver problems? a current or former cigarette, cigar or other tobacco smoker? diabetic or pre-diabetic? cancer or been treated for cancer? a history of heart conditions and other cardiovascular (heart blood circulation) or cerebrovascular (brain circulation) problems?	rate of <u>false</u> positives.





#### How often...

At least every 24 hours if used less that 12 hours per day.

https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHAR ules/div1/437-001-0744.pdf

- Soap
- Cloth hand towel
- Alcohol
- Bleach
- Hydrogen peroxide









## Atomized Disinfectant

#### Food safe H2O2 (6%)





## Engineering Controls

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## Which of these is safer?

Breathing air from an N-95 face-coverings that filters 95% of particles down to 0.1 microns.

Breathing air from a UltraHEPA filter that removes 99.997% of particles down to 0.003 microns.

# Engineering Controls

https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARule s/div1/437-001-0744.pdf How have engineering controls such as ventilation and physical barriers been used to minimize peoples exposure to COVID-19?

- Portable air filtration units equipped with HEPA filters
- Airborne infection isolation rooms
- Physician exam rooms
- Local exhaust ventilation
- Whole-building HVAC systems











	Minimum	n % of particles removed b	y air filter
MERV Rating	E1 particles (0.3 - 1.0 microns)	E2 particles (1.0 - 3.0 microns)	E3 particles (3.0 - 10.0 microns)
MERV-1	-	-	<20%
MERV-2	-	-	<20%
MERV-3	-	-	<20%
MERV-4	-	-	<20%
MERV-5	-	-	>20%
MERV-6	-	-	>35%
MFRV-7	-	-	>50%
MERV-8	-	>20%	>70%
MERV-9	-	>35%	>75%
MERV-10	-	>50%	>80%
MERV-11	>20%	>65%	>85%
MERV_12	>35%	>80%	>90%
MERV-13	>50%	>85%	>90%
MERV-14	>/5%	>90%	>95%
MERV-15	>85%	>90%	>95%
MERV-16	>95%	>95%	>95%

## **MERV**

(Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value)

The MERV rating system is intended to be used to classify a filter's ability to remove particulates from the air.

Is MERV 13 adequate?













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## Ventilation using HVAC

https://osha.oregon.gov/OSHARules/div1/437-001-0744.pdf

For employers

The employer is **not** required to meet the provisions of the American National Standards (ANSI)/American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standards 62.1 and 62.2 (ASHRAE 2019a, 2019b), but to the degree the employer does so it is in compliance with this paragraph. In accordance with the HVAC manufacturer's instructions and the design specifics of the HVAC system and as frequently as is necessary, the employer must ensure the following:

- A) All air filters are maintained and replaced as necessary to ensure the proper function of the ventilation system; and
- B) All intake ports that provide outside air to the HVAC system are cleaned, maintained, and cleared of any debris that may affect the function and performance of the ventilation system.

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OSHA – Oregon

#### **Psychothrapist BEWARE** - ASHRAE Ventilation Standards in General for a Psychiatric Exam Room (RAC) is not Engineered for SAR-CoV-2 Infection Control

	Combined Outdoor Air Rate $(R_c)$			
Occupancy Category	cfm/ft <sup>2</sup>	L/s· m		
Psychiatric consultation room	0.21	A CDC RAC o		
Psychiatric examination room	0.21	physician exa		
Psychiatric group room	0.41	200ft3)		
Psychiatric seclusion room	0.15			
Urgent care examination room	0.36	minutes whe		
Urgent care observation room	0.21			
Urgent care treatment room	0.44	OHSA Oregon		
Urgent care triage room	0.51	may not be ad		

ASHRAE - American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers

A CDC RAC of 6 requires 15 minutes in a typical physician exam room appointment. (e.g. 180 to 200ft3)

 ASHRAE standard HVAC RAC 6 ventilation is 50 minutes when clearing 105ft3/min in 5000ft3.

OHSA Oregon does not expect ASHRAE ventilation standards for SARS-Cov-2 mitigation. Those standards may not be adequate alone for infection control if 50 minutes exposure in a 500ft2 psychotherapy office.

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 Suspended Ceilings (These considerations are based on simplifications)

 Suspended ceilings have special considerations that require inspection and may require special engineering.

 In order for air filtration and ventilation to work, there should be adequate air circulation with minimal turbulence to ensure that stagnate air does not accumulate aerosols.

 The space between a ceiling and suspended ceiling should have minimal durbulence to correct for effects of stagnant air.

 The ceiling space might require sealing with a hard surface coating.

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## **Proxies for Aerosolized Infection Risk Monitoring**

- 1. CO2
- 2. Particle Count
- 3. Room temperature
- 4. Humidity
- 5. Visibility improvement (sight & laser)
- 6. Time (virus biological weaknesses)

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INFORMED-CONSENT-FOR-IN-PERSON-SERVICES-DURING-COVID-19-PUBLIC-HEALTH-CRISIS-¶ This-agreement-supplements-the-general-informed-consent/business-agreements-for-this-practice.¶

#### Decision to Meet Face-to-Face¶

We have agreed to meet in person for some or all future sessions. If there is a resurgence of the pandemic or if other health concerns arise, however, that may require that we meet via telehealth. If you have concerns about meeting by telehealth, we will discuss it first and try to address any issues. You understand that, if i believe it is necessary, i may determine that we use telehealth for everyone's well-being.

If-you-decide-at-any-time-that-you-would-feel-safer-staying-with,-or-returning-to,-telehealth-services,-l-willrespect that-decision,-if-it-is-feasible-and-clinically-appropriate.-Reimbursement-for-telehealth-services,however,-is-also-determined-by-insurance-companies-and-applicable-law,-so-reimbursement-is-an-issue-wealso-may-need-to-discuss.-¶

#### Risks-of-Opting-for-In-Person-Services¶

You-understand-that-by-coming-to-the-office,-you-are-assuming-the-risk-of-exposure-to-the-coronavirus-(orother-public-health-risk).-This-risk-may-increase-if-you-travel-by-public-transportation,-cab,-or-ridesharingservice.--The-risk-of-infection-in-my-office-is-extremely-low.-In-general,-the-risk-is-less-than-approximately-1-chance-in-3000.--I-carefully-follow-an-office-policy-that-covers:-¶

- 1.→Office and building safety¶
- 2.→Source-control-and-risk-reduction¶ 3.→Sanitization¶
- 3.→Saniuzation¶ 4.→Air·treatment¶
- 5.→Routine-initial-&-pre-session-screening¶
- 6. → Patient education and your informed consent¶
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### Informed Consent for In-Person Psychotherapy

Available at: <a href="http://www.OregonTherapyForum.com">www.OregonTherapyForum.com</a>

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#### Office Health Safety

 $\label{eq:constraint} Your-healthcare-provider-will-make-a-good-faith-effort-to-maintain-a-medically-safe-environment.°-A-patient-health-safety-policy-has-been-established,-implemented,-and-is-monitored.° \end{tabular}$ 

#### In-Person·Services¶

1

¶

Meeting with your health care provider in-person or using telehealth will be guided in part by Federal, State, and local public health authority and the characteristics of your health care provider's building, office, location, and patients they treat. ¶

 $\label{eq:constraint} Your-healthcare-provider-may-terminate-treatment-if-a-patient-fails-to-follow-or-refuses-to-follow-guidelines-posted-in-their-office-or-the-building.-You-will-not-be-charged-a-cancellation-fee-if-your-healthcare-provider-believes-your-risk-of-becoming-infected-or-infecting-others-is-significant... \P$ 

#### Telehealth·Services¶

 $Patients\cdot may \cdot start, \cdot continue, \cdot or \cdot discontinue \cdot telehealth \cdot services \cdot if \cdot their \cdot health care \cdot provider \cdot determines \cdot it \cdot is \cdot appropriate. \cdot \cdot The \cdot health care \cdot provider \cdot may \cdot decide \cdot telehealth \cdot is \cdot necessary \cdot if \cdot they \cdot believe \cdot in - person \cdot ther apy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot increases \cdot risk \cdot or \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot in - person \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot in - person \cdot the rapy \cdot in - person \cdot does \cdot not \cdot adequately \cdot add \cdot a$ 

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### Office Health Safety Policy

Available for download: at: <u>www.OregonTh</u> <u>erapyForum.com</u>

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KEEPING US ALL SAFE MEANS THAT WE EACH NEED TO BEHAVE AS THOUGH WE ARE INFECTIOUS EVEN WHEN WE ARE SURE WE'RE NOT ILL!

THANK YOU

## Small Building Health Safety Statement

Available at: www.OregonTherapyForum.com

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### Is walking and talking safer than sitting in your office?

Estimation of airborne viral emission: Quanta emission rate of SARS-CoV-2 for infection risk assessment

G. Buonanno<sup>a,b,\*</sup>, L. Stabile<sup>a</sup>, L. Morawska<sup>b</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Civil and Mechanical Engineering, University of Cassino and Southern Lazio, Cassino, FR, Italy<sup>b</sup> International Laboratory for Air Quality and Health, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Qld, Australia

The results showed that high quanta emission rates (> 100 quanta h-1) can be reached by an asymptomatic infectious SARS-CoV-2 subject performing vocalization during light activities (i.e. walking slowly) whereas a symptomatic SARS-CoV-2 subject in resting conditions mostly has a low quanta emission rate (< 1 quanta h-1).





PUBLIC HEALTH DIVISION Kate Brown, Governo



healthoregon.org/coronavirus

Effective Date: January 29, 2021

#### Sector Guidance — General Guidance for Employers and Organizations

Authority: Executive Order No. 20-66, ORS 433.441, ORS 433.443, ORS 431A.010

Applicability: All employers subject to Executive Order 20-66.

Enforcement: To the extent this guidance requires compliance with certain provisions, it is enforceable as specified in Executive Order No. 20-66, paragraph 10.

Definitions: For purposes of this guidance, the following definition applies:

- "Net Area" means the actual occupied area not including unoccupied accessory areas such as corridors, stairways, ramps, toilet rooms, mechanical rooms and closets. The net area is intended to include only the area of the room used for a specific purpose and does not include the areas mentioned above and therefore is not included in the net area.
- "Outdoor" means any open-air space including any space which may have a temporary or fixed cover (e.g. aways of an option of and at least fifty percent of the square footage of its sides open for airflow such that open sides are not adjacent to each other.

Sector Guidance — **General Guidance for Employers and Organizations** January 29, 2021

The Public Health Division manages public health. They expect healthcare professionals will practice competently.

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## Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated

Immunogenicity of a Single Dose of SARS-CoV-2 Messenger RNA Vaccine in Solid Organ Transplant

JAMA, March 8, 2021 https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jama/f

MRI recommends that for immunosuppressed patient psychotherapists consider additionally making the office vacant for 1 hour before One can create a set of declarative statements and call it conclusive evidence that seeing patients in your office is NOT safe.

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Declarative analysis & conclusions

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- 1. There is always a risk of infection from SARS-CoV2.
- A multi-night karaoke event led to 36 cases, three hospitalizations and one death.
- The public health department has recommended reduced seating in restaurants for inside public dining.
- Previous infection is no protection against the African variant.
- 5. You can still get Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-A, MIS-C) if vaccinated.
- The governor has announced that people must socially distance and wear a mask in public, except when eating outdoors.
- 7. Telehealth is reliable, valid and useful.
- 8. Some psychotherapists live alone.
- 9. Psychotherapist should consider their level of loneliness to ensure they are not placing patients at risk for personal needs.
- 10. Psychologists can be sanctioned and sued for unprofessional or negligent conduct.
- 11. All things considered; it is not safe for the public to see psychotherapists in their offices.



# Coronavirus Update

healthoregon.org/coronavirus

April 26, 2021

#### I'm fully vaccinated. Why do I have to continue safety precautions?

It's been a tough year for everyone and so many of us are, frankly, tired. Tired of not seeing our loved ones. Tired of wearing a face covering. Tired of staying close to home. But we are so close to helping end the pandemic! Even if we are to close to helping end the pandemic! Even if we are to luly vaccinated, many other people are not. And until we reach the point where COVID-19 can no longer easily spread, we need to keep practicing the proven safety precautions.

The fact is that <u>COVID-19 is a new virus</u>. That means health experts are still learning how effective the authorized vaccines work against the virus and <u>emerging variants</u>. Early data shows the vaccines work very well against the virus, but could be less effective against some emerging variants. Experts are also monitoring how well the authorized vaccines keep people from spreading the disease, and how long vaccine protection lasts.

The good news? We know what we must do to <u>help stop the spread</u> of COVID-19. Wear a face covering. Watch your distance, wash your hands often and stay home when you're sick. And get vaccinated when you are able. Create an <u>account</u> <u>at Get Vaccinated Oregon</u> to find out where you can get vaccinated. There are problems with guidance based on declarative arguments.

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# CDC Guidance for HCPs in a healthcare facility

 In general, fully vaccinated HCP should continue to wear source control while at work. However, fully vaccinated HCP could dine and socialize together in break rooms and conduct in- person meetings without source control or physical distancing. If unvaccinated HCP are present, everyone should wear source control and unvaccinated HCP should physically distance from others.

https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/infection-controlafter-vaccination.html



But a psychotherapists is responsible to not become an infection vector, i.e. infecting the next patient.

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# Engineers can give you the odds and relative risk that you will become infected. They...

- 1. ....use mathematical models based on the science of fluid dynamics and airborne infection transmission. (Air is a fluid)
- 2. Created software based on comprehensive models that simulate and test limits.
- 3. Found that different models (quanta vs viral load) generated the same numerical estimates of transmission risk.
- 4. Discovered that using machines to capture live virus and measure infection risk killed SARS-CoV-2. (This theoretically may have increased the effectiveness of air filtration)
- 5. The virus transmission risk estimators are excellent tools to assess relative risk based on local and setting parameters.
- 6. With such data you can establish a safety factor (or make decisions based on an order of magnitude).

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How do you Determine the Risk of Aerosolized SARS-CoV-2 Infection?

#### 2 Different Models (same results)

- 1. Viral load (viruses/ml of air exhaled)
- 2. Quanta (statistical unit of infectivity)

#### Level of Certainty (recommended)

- 1. Safety factor = 2 or 3
- 2. Order of magnitude = 1 decimal point







#### What are first principles?

- 1. SARS-COV-2 is fluid in a lipid container.
- 2. SARS-COV-2 is about 0.1 microns in size.
- 3. N95 mask filters 95% of particles down to 0.3 microns.
- 4. A cloth mask filters 50% of particles down to 1 microns.
- 5. The half life of a SARS-COV-2 is about 1 hour.
- 6. A ultraHEPA filter will capture 99.997% of particles down to 0.003 microns.
- 7. A folder cotton wash cloth is better than a N95 for sneezing and coughing.
- 8. The speed of air moving through a filter exceeds 65 mph.

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Here are 4000 gumballs.

What is the chance of picking the one gumball that has no gum in it?



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Do vaccines prevent asymptomatic infection? Vaccinations may reduce asymptomatic infection 35% to 80%.

Some people who receive only 1 of 2 required vaccinations may have no protection against asymptomatic infection.

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## Safety Factor

A usually applied Safety Factor is 1.5 Pressurized airplane cabin is 2.0 Main landing gear it is often 1.25

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# No-Mask: An engineering first principles analysis of aerosolized infection transmission

#### EXAMPLE

- 1. Prevalence (%) = < 3% or .03 (actually < 0.018%, or 0.00018)
- 2. Asymptomatic (%) = 40% or 0.4
- 3. Screening false positive (%) = 80% or 0.8
- 4. Aerosol infection risk (%) = < 3.0% or 0.03 \*\*[1] (actually 2.7%, or 0.027)
- 5. Vaccinated (to keep you out of the hospital) (%) = 95% or 0.05

Chance of getting infected	= [.03 + (0.4 x 0.03) ]x 0.2 x 0.03
	= 0.000252 or 1 chance in 3,967
Chance of long COVID	= 0.000252 x 0.5 = 0.000126
	= 0.000126 or 1 chance in 7,936
Chance of hospitalization	= 0.05 x 0.000252 = 0.000063
	= 0.0000063 or 1 chance in 158,730

\*\*[1] Using the University Colorado Boulder Aerosolized COVID-19 Risk Estimator: 2 people, 1 infected, 55-minute appointment, 5000ft3 office, 9 feet apart, 800ft3/min CADR, 0.003µ, comprehensive screening, 1 hour between in-person appointments, sanitization of fomites between appointment, safety factor 3.

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Safety factor = 3

93

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#### Psychotherapy is not a physician office visit.

Psychotherapy in a physician exam room (<200ft2) is probably not safe unless you are both vaccinated and there is excellent air treatment.

#### Evidence-supported Arguments to NOT See Patients In-person: Examples

- 1. My office is too small.
- 2. I share my office with other psychotherapists.
- 3. Patients cannot pass symptom, exposure, behavioral and security risk screenings.
- 4. The office design does not allow safe distances.
- 5. Ventilation is not adequate or possible in my office.
- 6. Air exchange is not adequate or possible.
- 7. The building has a retrofitted HVAC with shared office air.
- 8. Office HVAC MERV 17 air filtration is not adequate or possible.
- 9. Standalone air filtration requirements are not aligned with required parameters.
- 10. Psychotherapist is immunosuppressed.
- 11. A high number of patients are immunosuppressed.
- 12. You can still have some Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome (MIS-A, MIS-C).
- 13. There is a new variants of the coronavirus in the community.
- 14. Community adjusted prevalence of positive and presumed positives is > 3% (1 chance in 33)
- 15. The psychotherapist's office could become infection vector.
- 16. There are no State or Federal approved standards to address aerosolized SARS-CoV-2 infection transmission in a psychotherapy setting.

For your consideration:

Maintaining a COVID-Safe Practice With regard to meeting with patients in-person MRI offers comprehensive recommendations and cautions that pandemic risks require continuous thoughtful attention.

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