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COVID-19 & VNN PRACTICE UPDATE

With all that is going on in Victoria, Australia and indeed the world it is vitally important we stay abreast of changes and practices as they come to hand with respect to the management of COVID-19.

At Victorian Neurorehabilitation Network (VNN) we take this issue seriously and in addition to ethically and morally abiding by the state and federal regulations around the management of COVID-19 and community participation, we feel it is important to advise that we are updating our practices regularly to also reflect best practice and recommendations around the provision of health services within Australia and specifically, Victoria.

How have we adjusted our practices for our clients?

Our practices will reflect current guidance and recommendations by the state and federal governments as well peak bodies representing our various disciplines.

On 23 March 2020 the Federal Minister for Health, The Hon Greg Hunt, advised that all allied health businesses can continue working and are encouraged to do so. Mr Hunt went further to say that face-to-face services remain vital for many people so where possible, such services are encouraged to continue.

Based on these recommendations VNN practitioners will continue to provide their services and will be adapting their practices to reduce any risk of contagion by implementing the following procedures:

- Effective hand hygiene and infection control practices including alcohol-based hand sanitizer and regular disinfection of any therapy equipment
- Working within social distancing guidelines
- Options to move sessions outside if and where appropriate and safe to do so
- Communicating practices, measures and changes with all clients and relevant 3rd party stakeholders in a timely manner
- Screening clients prior to their session as per recommendations below

How can you help?

The fight against COVID-19 is something we all have to do together. We therefore ask that all clients follow the same recommendations to ensure you:

- Adhere to social distancing guidelines
- Use effective hand hygiene and infection control principles as able
- Communicate immediately to your VNN practitioner if you have any cold/flu or possible COVID-19 like symptoms
- Advise your practitioner immediately if you have returned from overseas after 09 March 2020 or have had direct or indirect contact with a person known to have positively tested for COVID-19

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We thank you for your continued understanding and look forward to continuing to support you with all your allied health and rehabilitation needs. Please feel free to contact your VNN practitioner directly should you have any queries around your upcoming treatment. Stakeholders can direct any queries to contact@vnnetwork.com.au

We will continue to update you as new guidelines and recommendations come to hand. We are also exploring alternative telehealth options for clients where it may be more appropriate.

-- ENDS --

Resources

Australian Government Department of Health
<https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert>

Coronavirus resources for the general public and health professionals
<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

Coronavirus health hotline

This line can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week for anyone seeking information around novel coronavirus. **1800 020 080**

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