

ASHA SIG 13 Coordinating Committee & COVID-19/Coronavirus: Updates and Resources (March 23, 2020)

The SIG 13 Coordinating Committee would like to provide a summary of information for clinicians to read as well as share with their administrators during this unprecedented time. We support ASHA's position statement on "*Service Delivery Considerations in Health Care During Coronavirus*", and understand that that new information is becoming available daily. As new content is released, we will share it with the medical SLP community. The Committee understands that this situation has caused a lot of fearfulness. Our hope is that during this unsettling time, there is an increase in unity. We are all in this together with our own unique sets of circumstances. Please let us know how we can continue to support you. Be safe!

Respectfully,

SIG 13 (Special Interest Group: Swallowing and Swallowing Disorders) Coordinating Committee
Coordinator: Megan M. Urban, Associate Coordinator: Rinki Varindani Desai
Aneesha Virani, R. Jordan Hazelwood, Kara Fletcher-Larson, Tiffany Mohr, Jamila Perry Harley

Where can I find updated COVID-19 related information from ASHA?

- <https://www.asha.org/SLP/healthcare/Service-Delivery-Considerations-in-Health-Care-During-Coronavirus/>
- <https://www.asha.org/About/Coronavirus-Updates/>

What position statements and guidelines are available?

- <https://www.asha.org/SLP/healthcare/Service-Delivery-Considerations-in-Health-Care-During-Coronavirus/>
- <https://www.entnet.org/content/academy-supports-cms-offers-specific-nasal-policy>
- <https://www.rcslt.org/learning/covid-19/rcslt-guidance> (note section on PPE and COVID)
- <https://www.nbrc.org/nbrc-policy-adjustments-for-covid-19/>
- <https://dysphagiaresearch.site-ym.com/>

Why are people so worried about endoscopy?

- <https://www.enttoday.org/article/otolaryngologists-may-contract-covid-19-during-surgery/>

What is an aerosol generating procedure (AGP)?

- <https://www.rcslt.org/learning/covid-19/rcslt-guidance> (see section on PPE and COVID)
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4734356/>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4615563/>

What resources for telemedicine are available?

- <https://www.asha.org/uploadedFiles/State-Telepractice-Policy-COVID-Tracking.pdf>
- <https://blog.asha.org/2020/03/18/5-few-steps-to-get-started-in-telepractice/>
- <https://www.asha.org/Practice/reimbursement/Payment-and-Coverage-Considerations-for-Telepractice-Services-During-Coronavirus/>
- <https://www.asha.org/About/Telepractice-Resources-During-COVID-19/>
- <https://www.asha.org/Advocacy/state/Speech-Language-hearing-Interstate-Compact/>

What journal articles can help me learn more about telemedicine and dysphagia?

- <https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/persp2.SIG18.42>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22271284>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24443927>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/28775803>
- <http://telerehab.pitt.edu/ojs/index.php/Telerehab/article/view/6093/6378>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hed.24706>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22052284>
- <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1258/jtt.2009.081204>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/22663016>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4165336/>
- <http://www.ghrnet.org/index.php/joghr/article/view/699/815>
- <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/hed.24706>
- <https://pubs.asha.org/doi/10.1044/persp2.SIG13.139>
- <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/31631759>

What resources are available for professors and students?

- <https://www.asha.org/Certification/COVID-19-Guidance-From-CFCC/>
- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1VT9oiNYPyiEsGHBoDKlwLIWAsWP58sGV7A3oIuEUG3k/edit?ts=5e6694d4#gid=1552188977>

Is group therapy recommended currently?

No – CMS is not recommending group therapy at this time.

When is the ASHA 2020 Call for Papers deadline?

This has been extended to April 16th. <https://convention.asha.org/presenters/call-for-papers/>

What are some talking points with administration?

Continue to speak with your leadership regarding how you can assist in these times

Continue to have discussions related to availability of PPE

Request infection control guidelines specific to your facility and be aware of infection control resources available online such as:

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/infection-control/index.html>
- <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covid-19-infection-control-training>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/topics/hcwcontrols/recommendedguidanceextuse.html>
- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/hcp/guidance-risk-assesment-hcp.html>

Learn about your facility policies on essential personnel and be aware of resources:

<https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/CISA-Guidance-on-Essential-Critical-Infrastructure-Workers-1-20-508c.pdf>

What are some tips from clinicians?

- Create an AAC packet to give to COVID-19 units, include just in time training so RNs and MDs know how to use info
- Create "virtual visit" bags with demo of feeding supplies to show to families and/or demonstrate during televisits
- For outpatient SLPs that may not see coworkers, suggest a Virtual Journal Group and meet weekly to share your experiences

How can I help take care of myself during this time?

Take care of yourself. Educate others. Advocate for the vulnerable patients. Utilize resources for self-care, such as these:

<http://www.cpgh.org/self-care-toolkit>,
<https://www.healthcaretoolbox.org/>, <https://www.headspace.com/>.

As SLPs, we need to be brave and be a team player and offer as much as possible with the least contact as possible. We are skilled clinicians. Anything we can do to support patients and our healthcare facilities during this time is worthwhile. Be safe, everybody!