

Update 27 August 2021

Remain Covid-aware as infection numbers increase.

The SMTO have just received an email from the Scottish Government expressing their concern about the sharp increase of Covid-19 infection rates. Due to the increase in viral transmission, the Scottish Government ask that you continue to comply with published guidance for all treatments at any venue and thank you for your ongoing support to fight Covid-19.

Please can you ensure that:

🙏 You complete a Covid-19 screening for every client on every treatment.

🙏 Wash/sanitise your hands regularly.

🙏 Ventilation is maintained throughout and between treatments.

🙏 Clean all touch surfaces as identified from your risk assessment; this includes your treatment couch, face hole/cradle, therapy tools/equipment after every client and clean other touch surfaces regularly throughout the day.

🙏 You, and your client, must wear a face-covering at all times (medical exemptions apply). **This is still a legal requirement.**

🙏 If you treat the client's nose and mouth area, you should wear a type IIR mask and eye protection. The client must replace their face-covering as soon as this area has been treated.

The SMTO also recommend that you take twice-weekly lateral flow tests and add any mitigation measures that you feel are appropriate for treatments. Self-isolate when you are told to do so and get a test if you experience Covid-19 related symptoms.

Update 9 August 2021

Face-coverings remain by law for most indoor settings, including CAM, Beauty, Hair, Spa and all massage treatments. This means that both therapists and their clients must wear a face-covering for the duration of all treatments (medical exemptions apply).

This also applies in all training, supervision and exam settings for the close contact services.

When any nose and mouth treatment requires the client to remove their face-covering, the therapist should wear a type IIR mask and eye protection (goggles or visor). Clients should replace their face-covering immediately afterwards.

Risk assessments must continue to be used for all treatment settings where ventilation and hygiene remain the most important mitigation in the hierarchy of control measures.

Self-isolation will no longer be necessary if therapists are identified as a close contact. Please read the full guidance on ScotGov as conditions apply. Covid screening should be done prior to treatment and asks if the client has any Covid-19 symptoms or should be isolating for any reason. This can be done as the client arrives for treatment but maintain social distancing as you complete your screening.

From 9 August, there will be no legal requirement for social distancing. However, The Scottish Government recommends that, where possible, social distancing measures remain in place for the close contact services to reduce any viral transmission.