

Healthcare sector: setting up the treatment room

How can you arrange good and safe patient care in the treatment room?

- Use plexiglass screens: install screens in places where maintaining a distance of 1.5 metres is more difficult. See if this is possible in the consultation room, e.g. on the healthcare provider's desk. These screens are lightweight and generally easy to install. This keeps all contact safe.
- Apply stickers at counters, waiting areas, and treatment rooms. You can use these to show walking routes, e.g. as well as clearly marking the mandatory 1.5 metres social distance. This will protect both you and your employees and patients/clients. Use high-quality tape that is durable and easy to clean. Make sure the surface they are to be applied to is clean and free of grease before application.
- Remove unnecessary objects (utensils) in the treatment room.
- Offer patients the opportunity to wash their hands before entering the treatment room. If this is not possible, provide rubbing alcohol gel.
- Schedule the treatments with a larger time gap between them to separate the inflow and outflow of patients/clients. For different treatment rooms, ensure different start and end times for the treatment sessions.
- Ensure the treatment room is well ventilated, e.g. by opening a window. Inform patients/clients so they dress warmly enough.
- Set chairs 1.5 metres apart and place chairs at a sufficient distance from the desk so the patient/client is sufficiently far away from the healthcare provider (at least 1.5 m).
- Hang an information sign on the door requesting patients/clients to only arrive at the agreed time. Ask the patient/client to wait in the car or outside (weather permitting) if adequate changes to the waiting area are not possible.
- Have paper tissues and a bin with a lid and foot pedal in the treatment room.
- Leave the door to the treatment room open (if possible) so the door handles do not need to be used.
- Provide information via posters on the door and/or wall regarding the coronavirus guidelines in practice.
- Clean the treatment room and materials between appointments with patients/clients. Disinfect the treatment table, treatment equipment, or objects with which the patient comes into contact before and after use.
- Preferably use paper rolls on the treatment table and tools.
- Linen (e.g. used hand towels) must always be considered contaminated. Immediately remove all dirty linen after use using a linen bag (in a stand-up container with a closed lid that is operated by foot). Do not push the air out of the linen bags. Linen should preferably be washed at 60°C. Wear gloves and a mask when handling laundry, and then use hand hygiene measures.
- When employing play therapy, clean or disinfect the toys between the different treatments, if possible. If not possible, leave the toy in a well-ventilated place and only use the toy again one day later. Ensure the children wash/disinfect their hands before and after playing with the toys.

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