OT DRIVER ASSESSMENTS - MANAGING COVID-19

For Driver Assessor OT's considering resumption of assessment services and driving rehabilitation programmes, the following guide has been put together to help with assisting with a safe return to practice.

At all times ensure that you remain up to date with state and federal guidelines and put in place all reasonable measures to prevent spread of the virus.

These guidelines should be used as a guide only and you will need to consider how they apply to your own individual practice circumstances.

1 RISK ASSESSMENT

Complete a risk assessment within 24 hours prior to the assessment to ascertain if the client has had contact with someone diagnosed with or suspected of having COVID-19 and to confirm the presence of symptoms. Advise the client that if they develop symptoms they should contact you to cancel the assessment and you will do the same.

2 CONSENT

Include a statement on the OT Driving Assessment consent form, confirming that the client acknowledges that although risks have been minimised, social distancing cannot be adhered to within the on-road assessment environment. Outline the hygiene practices that will be carried out and the PPE that is to be used/available.
Ensure that consent is obtained in writing and documented in the client file.

3 HYGIENE

Have clear and documented procedures for hygiene that relates to the vehicle, the driving instructor, the OT and the client.
Ensure you have appropriate supplies of disinfectant to wipe down surfaces in the vehicle, disinfectant spray for fabric surfaces in the vehicle, and hand sanitiser.

4 SOCIAL DISTANCING

Social distancing guidelines cannot be adhered to in a vehicle during an assessments. Under current guidelines PPE should be used. Clients need to be made aware of this and provide informed consent to participate in the assessment, or given the opportunity to reschedule.

5 PPE

PPE should be used during the on road assessment due to the inability to comply with current social distancing guidelines. This will include the use of masks for the Driving Instructor and OT; masks should be available for clients who choose to wear them.

Useful Links

https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-05/cleaning-table-covid19-26May2020.pdf

https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources

https://covid-19training.gov.au/

Thank you to all of the NSW, VIC and QLD Driver Assessor OT's who contributed to these guidelines through their participation in the OT Driver Ed meeting on 22 May 2020.
www.otdrivereducation.com.au