



COVID-19 Protocol for Practical Exams

Covers	Practical Exams
Date written	4 November 2020
Version	2.3
Review date	December 2020 and then 6 monthly or as required following updated guidance from government and GCMT

This document will help mitigate the current risk posed by Covid-19 as assessed in the BCMB Covid-19 Risk Assessment when holding practical exams. It covers:

- Communicating with and advising clients before they arrive at BCMB
- Clients entering the BCMB premises
- The exam room
- Wider building use – kitchen, toilets, office

Please note – this protocol is a supplement to the Teaching protocol, which covers general building use at BCMB and mitigation actions for students. This applies to the exam setting only. The protocol takes note of the latest GCMT guidance. **See Appendix A for definition of Covid-19 Risk Categories.**

1) Booking clients

Prior to appointment

- **Clients will be screened by office at point of booking. If local or national restrictions have shut close contact services, then appointments will only be made for members of the BCMB educational community (students or tutors).**
- **If close contact services are open but Tier 2 or 3 restrictions apply, then only members of the public at low risk of Covid will be booked in.**



- If close contact services are open and Tier 1 restrictions apply, then members of the public who are at low or medium risk of Covid may be booked in.
- Clients in the high risk category will not be booked in.

Tutors will advise office staff which category will apply to particular clients.

- Clients will be called for a pre-screening questionnaire in which they will be:
 - asked whether they have any of the symptoms of Covid-19 as according to NHS guidelines
 - advised what they need to bring
- Client to bring their own pen and water.
- Student will supply clean drapes for their client.
- Client to wear a mask whilst on the premises and during their massage. If client has a specific medical reason why they cannot wear a mask, the student may still proceed but should note the exemption and any mitigations used instead eg avoiding facial massage.
- The student will meet and greet the client wearing visor and apron, in order to build rapport.
- Student and client will be asked to “check in” using BCMB’s QR code from the NHS Test and Trace app.
- Client to have their temperature taken by student and recorded on arrival – if above 37.8 they cannot be treated.

In the exam room

Student

- The initial consultation will take place 2 metres apart, so the student can wear just visor and apron.



- Check with client to see whether anything has changed since their pre-screening call
- Wipe clean couch covers and face cradles to be wiped down by each student after their client
- Couch roll to be used to protect chairs and couches – to be disposed of after each client.
- Before leaving room with examiner, student will don their mask.
- On re-entry to room, student dons gloves.
- Student practitioner to wear gloves, apron, mask and visor during treatment

Examiner

- Must inform MTI if experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or instructed to self-isolate as soon as possible to find alternative examiner. MTI to inform BCMB/lead tutor of change
- Maintain social distancing of 2m, or 1m+ with mask. If examiner needs to be closer than 1m (ie for observation) then examiner to don visor as well as mask.
- Examiner's chair to be covered with couch roll
- Must follow all BCMB general building use protocols whilst on BCMB premises. Tutor to ensure that examiner has access to these before the exam and that they are explained on arrival

After treatment

- Aftercare advice will be conducted by student with both visor and mask, now that rapport has been established.
- Clients to leave via rear entrance



- Once client has left, student should wipe down couch cover, face cradle and cushions, with examiner still in room
- Student will also open the window, to provide ventilation before the next exam.
- Examiner to provide feedback to student in Green room
- Door handles to be wiped down



APPENDIX A: RISK CATEGORIES

The GCMT guidance published on 26th October 2020

(<http://www.gcmt.org.uk/documents/covid-19/GCMT-Resource-Pack-Current-Overview-for-Therapists-in-the-UK-v3-26-Oct-2020.pdf>) identified the following contra-indications around Covid-19.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (High Risk)

- Currently receiving treatments for cancer
- Severe lung & respiratory conditions
- Recently post-operative
- Recently had an organ transplant
- Recently had a bone marrow or stem cell transplant
- Suppressed immune system – and likelihood to easily develop infections
- Pregnant – if accompanied by a serious heart condition
- Experiencing severe post Covid-19 circulatory complications – DVT, micro-embolisms, CVA or PE

Clinically Vulnerable (Moderate Risk)

- Brain and nervous system conditions – Parkinson's, motor neurone disease, cerebral palsy, MS
- Clinically obese – BMI over 40
- Aged 70 years or older – especially older males
- Of BAME heritage
- Pregnant
- Mild lung & respiratory conditions
- Heart disease, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease
- Those shielding vulnerable family members
- Front-line NHS staff & carers

Low Risk Clients

None of these conditions apply.