

Patient Consent to Audiological Treatment During the COVID-19 Outbreak

Yolandé van der Westhuizen Audiologists Inc. as a member of the South African Association of Audiologists (SAAA), the professional association mandated to accommodate the interest of the Audiology profession as well as the public in South Africa, is committed to complying with all stages of the COVID-19 lockdown.

Yolandé van der Westhuizen Audiologists Inc. aims to provide audiological care in emergency and essential cases in the safest way possible, and we take every precaution to minimize the risk of the spread of COVID-19 infection. Despite our best efforts, however, prevention of infection cannot be guaranteed. As such, we would like to ensure that you are informed about various aspects of COVID-19 infection as well the precautions that we as practitioners and you as our patients can take to minimize its spread.

Covid-19: Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus. Most people who fall sick with COVID-19 will experience mild to moderate symptoms and recover without special treatment. The virus that causes COVID-19 is mainly transmitted through droplets generated when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or exhales. These droplets are too heavy to hang in the air, and quickly fall on floors or surfaces. You can be infected by breathing in the virus if you are within close proximity of someone who has COVID-19, or by touching a contaminated surface and then your eyes, nose or mouth.

The precautions put in place by this practice to protect you are:

- The use of face masks and or face shields by all staff
- Increased social distancing measures in waiting areas
- Installation of screens at all reception desks & audiologist consulting areas
- Spaced out appointment times to avoid overlap of appointments
- Thorough sanitizing of all patient contact areas after each appointment
- Frequent hand washing & sanitizing for staff members

For the safety of our practice staff, as well as yourself, please comply with the following measures:

- Hand washing and used of alcohol-based sanitisers
- Use of masks at all times as per Government legislation from 01 May 2020
- Self-quarantine rules to apply if you have tested positive for COVID-19, have knowingly been in contact with someone who has tested positive, or are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19.
- Kindly wait in your vehicle until your appointment time
- In the event of a collection or drop-off, phone us to collect or bring to you in your vehicle.
- Minimise time in the practice by filling out admission forms at home where possible.

Disclaimer: I, _____, have been informed of the risks of consulting with Yolandé van der Westhuizen Audiologists Inc. for audiological management during the COVID-19 pandemic. I have been informed of the safety protocols in place, am aware of the risks to me during patient care, and I have decided to continue with my treatment.

Signature of patient/parent/guardian

Date: