



CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MIKE KENNEALY  
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Division of Occupational Licensure  
Board of Registration of Speech-Language  
Pathology & Audiology  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710  
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI  
UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER  
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS  
REGULATION

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA  
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF  
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

In response to current public health considerations due to Covid-19, the Board of Registration for Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology ("Board") has voted to adopt the following information for all holders of Board-issued licenses.

For speech-language pathology and/or audiology services rendered through August 31, 2022, the Board's Policy on Providing Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Services by Electronic Means ("Telepractice Policy") is **temporarily** amended as set forth below. All other standards as set forth in the Telepractice Policy, including those regarding training, remain in effect.

1. All licensing requirements of the Telepractice Policy remain in effect; thus, all persons who provide telepractice services to clients who reside or are located in Massachusetts must be licensed by the Board and Board licensees must comply with statutes, regulations and policies of the jurisdiction where the client is located.
2. A Board licensed speech-language pathologist or audiologist may provide services via telepractice to a client who is clinically appropriate and has a medical need or is determined eligible based on an Individualized Education Plan or a plan under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.
3. For speech-language pathology and/or audiology services rendered through August 31, 2022, the Board hereby waives the requirement for an in-person evaluation to occur prior to the start of telepractice services. *However, for individuals who choose to continue receiving telepractice services after August 31, 2022, an in-person assessment of the client's need for services and candidacy for telepractice, including behavioral, physical and cognitive abilities to participate in telepractice services, must be completed within sixty (60) working days after August 31, 2022 for individuals who did not participate in an in-person evaluation prior to the start of telepractice services. For individuals in which telepractice services have transitioned from telepractice to in-person services, an in-person assessment of the client's current skills and need for services must be completed within sixty (60) working days of August 31, 2022 for individuals who did not participate in an in-person evaluation prior to the start of telepractice services.*
4. Where speech-language pathology assistants or audiology assistants are providing services via telepractice, the Board's regulations and policies, including but not limited to rules on supervision, remain applicable: at least 10% of services rendered by the assistant each month must be provided under Direct Supervision, and an additional 10% of the assistant's services must be supervised either directly or indirectly.



5. Licensees who supervise clinical fellows or graduate students should follow ASHA and CFCC Covid-19 guidelines, which can be accessed here: [www.asha.org/certification/covid-19-guidance-from-cfcc/](http://www.asha.org/certification/covid-19-guidance-from-cfcc/).
6. Licensees providing telepractice services must properly identify the patient using, at a minimum, the patient's name and date of birth and, where possible, a photo ID.
7. To the extent feasible, licensees providing telepractice services must ensure the same rights to confidentiality and security as provided during in-person services. Licensees must inform patients of any relevant privacy considerations.

This policy amends the Board's June 10, 2020 policy regarding telepractice during the State of Emergency declared by Governor Baker.