



March 21, 2022

Re. Virtual Assessments

Dear BCASP Members,

As we make our way out of this fifth wave of the COVID-19 pandemic, we would like to remind you about BCASP's position on virtual assessments, most recently communicated on April 13th, 2021.

BCASP, as well as other School Psychology regulatory bodies, continues to support in-person, not virtual, assessments for our members, unless under the supervision of a Registered Psychologist (who co-signs the report). The executive does not consider virtual or online assessments using standardized measures to be within the scope of practice, or expertise, of our membership. Without sufficient training, practice, and supervision it is unethical to pursue a virtual modality. Engaging in virtual assessments is grounds for initiating a formal complaint.

We continue to encourage you to employ various layers of protection when conducting assessments. We are nearly two years into this pandemic, and much more is known about the virus. We know the importance of high-quality masks, ventilation, and limiting the duration of close-proximity work in small spaces. We also encourage you to become fully vaccinated if you have not already. Remote consultation, collaboration, and data collection, including virtual interviewing and remote administration of rating scales can be an option, so long as your practice is sensitive to your clients' context(s), and aligns with our standards for obtaining informed consent and demonstrating responsible caring.

Virtual assessment continues to be an emerging practice, with scant support in the research literature (e.g. Farmer et al., 2020; Krach et al., 2020; Stifel et al., 2020). The variables and considerations for telepsychology assessments are extensive, sensitive in nature and many outcomes may be yet unknown. The BC College of Psychologists outlines twenty-seven variables to consider. They also note that in-person psychological assessment remains the standard whenever possible, which the BCASP Executive is in full support of. Please review the following links for more information.

<https://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/covid-19-updates/>

<http://collegeofpsychologists.bc.ca/docs/psc/PS15%20-%20Telepsychology%20Assessment.pdf>

<https://cpa.ca/corona-virus/>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine/getting-a-vaccine>

Thank you,

The BCASP Executive Committee

Farmer., R. L., et al. (2020). Conducting psychoeducational assessments during the COVID-19 crisis: the danger of good intentions. *Contemporary School Psychology*, <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0734282920969993>.

Krach., S. K., et al. (2020). Meeting COVID-19 deadlines: choosing assessments to determine eligibility. *Journal of Psychoeducational Assessment*, v 39, 50-73. <https://doi.org/10.1177%2F0734282920969993>.

Stifel, S. W. F., et al. (2020). Assessment during the COVID-19 pandemic: ethical, legal, and safety considerations moving forward. *School Psychology Review*, 49:4, 438-452. <https://doi.org/10.1080/2372966X.2020.1844549>.