

Information from ASHA's Special Interest Group (SIG) 18:

Medical facilities and educational settings across the United States are taking preemptive action to prevent exposure to and the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19). Many facilities are turning to telehealth as a mechanism for continuing to meet clients'/patients'/students' needs. For many providers, clients and other stakeholders this may be their first exposure to telehealth.

Use of telehealth must be equivalent to the quality of services provided in person and consistent with adherence to the [Code of Ethics](#) (ASHA, 2016a), [Scope of Practice in Audiology](#) (ASHA, 2018), [Scope of Practice in Speech-Language Pathology](#) (ASHA, 2016b), state and federal laws and ASHA policy.

The SIG 18 Coordinating Committee compiled the following list of resources and hyperlinks to them for consideration **before engaging in telehealth services**.

1. Consider the [appropriateness](#) of telehealth for meeting the needs of individuals.
2. The organization must have a Business Associates Agreement (BAA) with the videoconferencing company. A Business Associates Agreement (BAA) is an agreement between your videoconferencing company and your employer that assures that the transmission of information from provider to client and client to provider is encrypted. Encryption is necessary to provide the first level of compliance with HIPPA & FERPA laws. (See ASHA's [Telepractice Practice Portal page](#) for further information on HIPPA & FERPA). Encryption provides the SLP & employer a great assurance of providing client confidentiality.--- HOWEVER, A BAA IS NOT ENOUGH. To ensure that you are providing services that are compliant with HIPPA & FERPA you will need to implement the following: a) a secure location for providing services that is not interrupted (e.g., having others walk into the room where you are providing service) b)remote access to electronic documentation must be considered to protect client privacy and confidentiality at both sites.
3. Consult your [state's teacher certification and SLP/AuD licensure laws](#) regarding use of telehealth.

4. Verify that you **and** the [client have necessary equipment and internet speed](#) to engage in a videoconference session.

5. Verify that someone will be physically present with the client/patient/student who can support your services.

6. Verify contact information for the client/patient/student including a phone number, email, physical address and relevant local emergency services.

ASHA members are encouraged to be informed and to advise stakeholders and other decision-makers on the implementation of telehealth.

Additional Resources Can Be Found At:

[ASHA Telehealth Practice Portal](#)

[ASHA SIG 18 Community](#)