The COVID-19 public health crisis is an adversity impacting all families simultaneously. The following guidance should be used to support your practice with clients and families.

**You may see a significant change in needs and strengths.**

* Many families are facing levels of stress that are unprecedented. Caregiver needs and strengths may have changes due to unemployment, changes in finances, closure of schools and childcare, and the impacts of social distancing.
* Many clients and families will have needs and immediate needs that are new. Anxiety, Depression, Mood (CANS 0-5), Family Relationships, Living Situation, Community Connections, Supportive Relationships (CANS 0-5), Accessibility to Child Care/Preschool (CANS 0-5), Caregiver Financial Resources, and Caregiver Residential Stability are a few areas that may have increases in scores.
* Many clients and families will have past needs that are no longer prioritized or a focus of treatment.
* Please score the CANS reflecting the current situation during the COVID-19 pandemic. It is not a negative reflection of treatment that scores will increase during the pandemic. We expect to see trends in our data beginning with the start of social-distancing, and extending through the remainder of the public health emergency, and for a period of time afterward.

**School items are scored in the new home-schooling context.**

* School Achievement- Please carry forward the previous score from the last CANS unless you have received updated information from a member of the client’s school team.
* School Attendance- This measures the client’s participation in the learning assigned by their school/educational program. This may include logging into virtual classrooms, completing activities, or submitting assignments.
* School Behavior- Please consider the behavioral reports of the individual assisting or overseeing the home-based school environment. For most clients, this would be the report from parents/caregivers regarding their child’s cooperation with educational activities or their need for behavioral support.
* Educational System- Please consider the educator’s response to the child’s needs during school closure. This may include special education accommodations or equitable access to online learning or alternative activities.
* Preschool/Child Care (CANS 0-5)- This would be scored in the same manner as school behavior. A report from the parent/caregiver would identify whether there are concerns with the child’s ability to participate in the home-based environment and effectively have their needs met without developmental and behavioral concerns.

**The CANS administration via telehealth may involve different preparation with clients, families, and the treatment team.**

* Remember to explain the telehealth options with client and family ahead of time to obtain informed consent. Telehealth presents unique privacy concerns for families and they should be consulted in deciding upon the administration option that works best for them. Make a note of their consent in your clinical documentation.
* Create a plan ahead of time to discuss how you will handle sensitive sections of the CANS. It may be helpful to have a plan around reading cues if the client or family member is uncomfortable or needs a break.
* If the technology is new to the client or family, plan to walk through the process ahead of time or a few minutes early to problem-solve technological issues.
* Screen sharing could be used through Zoom appointments.
* Videoconferencing and phone calls are the preference for coordinating with other treatment team members or outside service providers. Email would be a last resort.
* Please leave the following statement in the comment section: **This CANS reflects changes in scoring due to COVID-19.**