

FACT SHEET

COVID-19: Changes to the delivery of services by the Tasmanian Autism Diagnostic Service (TADS)

For the latest advice, information and resources about coronavirus go to the Australian Government Department of Health website at www.health.gov.au and follow the links from the homepage.

Current Situation

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has announced that COVID-19 is a pandemic. In Tasmania we are currently in a containment phase.

For TADS this means that we are still delivering services, but we will be making some adjustments to the way we do this to reduce the likelihood of exposure and spread of the virus.

Assessment is continuing, but in an alternative format.

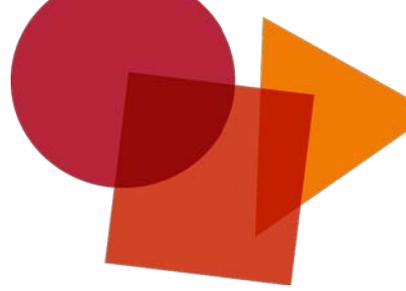
Changes

From 23 March 2020 TADS will cease all face to face assessments. This is because it is not possible to undertake a face to face assessment whilst maintaining a safe physical distance. In normal circumstances the assessment includes close contact with children and young people and their parent or carer for up to 3 hours at a time.

TADS will move to completing the family interview part of the assessment over the phone.

We are also working on developing on-line options for parents with computer access to complete some parts of the assessment.

Our clinicians know that long phone conversations may be difficult due to families having children



at home. TADS will work with families to book times that suit.

Face to face assessment with the child will still be required to finalise the assessment. Face to face session will be reintroduced when it is safe to do so. Because all the background work and family assessment will already be done by the time a face to face assessment takes place the entire process will be able to be finalised quickly.

Current Appointments

If you have an assessment time already booked TADS will contact you to make new arrangements.

Moving Forward

It is not known how long these arrangements will need to be in place.

TADS will continue to review the delivery of assessments and further changes may be required.

Staying in Touch

If you have questions about your TADS assessment, please get in touch.

Telephone: (03) 6166 1100

Email: autismassessment@communities.tas.gov.au

If you have other questions about TADS or the assessment process please refer to the following website https://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/service_information/services_files/tads