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To: All Early Intervention Payees and Providers
Child and Family Connections Service Coordinators and Staff
All Early Intervention Families

From: Ann M. Freiburg, Chief *AMF*
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: March 25, 2021

RE: Revised Early Intervention Plan for Resuming In-Person Services

This informational notice is to provide all Early Intervention (EI) stakeholders with an update to Service Delivery Guidelines for Early Intervention in Illinois.

Following further consultation with Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), in-person EI services can be increased to no more than 20 families beginning April 1, 2021.

The service delivery method must remain a team (family/caregiver and EI Provider, Service Coordinator (SC)) discussion that considers the available options and potential risk factors. Once everyone on the team agrees to the chosen methods based on informed decision-making, the approach will be documented in EI Provider case notes and/or SC case notes.

Considerations the team must discuss and agree to:

- 1) In-person services must comply with all safety protocols outlined in Section 2 of the September 17, 2020 [Revised Early Intervention \(EI\) Plan for Resuming In-Person \(Face-to-Face\) in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois Plan](#) which requires:
 - a. Limiting the number of families seen in-person by any individual EI Provider to 20, including EI families/caregivers as well as others EI Providers may see outside of the scope of their EI practice.
 - b. Including families/caregivers seen for in-person evaluations/assessments in this limit.
 - c. Families/caregivers and EI Providers all agreeing to in-person services only after a discussion about the ability to successfully provide services through LVV and Phone Consultation has occurred. If the team feels that successful implementation of the strategies created by the team cannot be achieved through coaching the family via LVV or phone, then the service can be delivered in-person. **Services should be delivered via LVV and Phone Consultation to the maximum extent possible during the ongoing pandemic.**
 - d. Prioritizing families/caregivers for in-person services based on family/caregiver needs, potential risk factors, and the inability to meet outcomes through other methods of service delivery.
 - e. EI Providers and families/caregivers adhere to the most recent [CDC](#) and [IDPH](#) quarantine guidelines, whichever is more restrictive.

- 2) LVV must be discussed as an option for some, or all, of the services prior to choosing the in-person service delivery method. Teams should work to maximize the benefits of the LVV coaching prior to implementing in-person service delivery for any particular service.
 - a. Families must continue to be notified of their rights and procedural safeguards throughout these discussions.
- 3) **Despite increasing in-person limits and growing numbers of vaccinated individuals, ALL safety protocols listed in Section 2 the Revised plan of September 17, 2020 must be followed including, but not limited to:**
 - a. [Pre-screening of family and providers](#) to ensure IDPH screening guidelines are met with the results documented in case notes.
 - b. Appropriate PPE should be worn by all individuals present for the in-person service and EI Providers must adhere to the IDPH standards of sanitation before, during and after each in-person service.
 - c. Changing of a EI Provider's/SC's clothes or an overshirt/smock/lab coat between visits. These overgarments should be laundered between uses, so EI Providers should have enough on hand each day to use a clean garment for each visit.
 - d. Limit the number of family members participating in the visit to minimize risk.
 - e. Limit space for delivering in-person services to reduce exposure to multiple surfaces.
 - f. Reduce/eliminate items brought into home which includes paperwork/files unless leaving papers with the family/caregiver. No "toy bags" should ever be brought into the home as families/caregivers should be able to use existing items from their home to implement strategies in the context of the family's/caregiver's routines and activities.
- 4) All team members should check their current local COVID positivity rate by visiting the IDPH website's listing, [by county](#). This information should be used to assess risk and inform ongoing decisions about the family's/caregiver's and EI Provider's willingness to continue in-person services.

All EI Providers should be very familiar with the Region they reside or work within. The information on the Regional breakdown is on the IDPH website at <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-regional-dashboard>.

It is imperative that all EI Payees, EI Providers, and Service Coordinators monitor the [Provider Connections' website](#) on a daily basis. As new information becomes available, conditions may change, and we want everyone to have the most current information. If or when revisions are needed, information will be updated and posted on the Provider Connections website as well as other EI Partner websites.

Additional resources can be found by visiting the [EI Training Program's website](#).

Parents are welcome to monitor the [Provider Connections' website](#) for the latest information and can find other great family resources at the [EI Clearinghouse's website](#).

We appreciate the efforts being made to protect the citizens of Illinois by following these guidelines. Your commitment to families during this unprecedented time has been invaluable. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Bureau directly at 217/782-1981 or by submitting your questions to DHS.EIQuestions@illinois.gov.