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To: Illinois Physicians and Primary Early Intervention Referral Sources

From: Ann Freiburg, Chief *AmF*  
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: October 8, 2020

Re: Reopen Illinois Early Intervention Information

Since March 16, 2020, the Bureau of Early Intervention (EI) has been continuing to support families with children who have developmental delays and disabilities. We started immediately upon the Stay-At-Home Order with Phone Consultation. On April 7, 2020, we included Live Video Visits or LVV (telehealth) as an option. Effective August 1, 2020, EI approved a plan to reinstate limited in-person services for children birth to three in the State of Illinois who are referred and/or qualify for EI. Please note that EI has provided guidelines to our families and provider community regarding the mitigation of risk factors for in-person, in-home services and encouraged the use of LVV where feasible to avoid exposure and increased risk. For additional information regarding the various options of EI service delivery, you might wish to review the Guidance, FAQ and updates posted at <http://www.wiu.edu/ProviderConnections/>.

As you are aware, physicians, hospitals and additional EI primary referral sources (identified in 89 Sec., Admin Code 500.25(b) and 34 CFR §303.303) are required by state and federal laws to make appropriate referrals to the Child and Family Connections (CFC) office serving the child no more than five working days after a potentially-eligible child is identified.

EI is a voluntary program and it is up to the family to decide to participate in the program. As a provider with a trusted relationship with families, you are in the unique position to provide support for families by completing developmental screenings and discussing the child's developmental strengths and concerns as outlined in the [Department of Healthcare & Family Services: Early Intervention Care Coordination Provider Toolkit](#). You can then communicate with the family the reason for a referral to EI, related to the developmental concerns. Information and resources regarding the hybrid of service delivery and the reinstatement of in-person EI services is available for families at [www.eiclearinghouse.org](http://www.eiclearinghouse.org).