



JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

823 East Monroe • Springfield, Illinois 62701
401 S. Clinton Avenue • Chicago, IL 60607

To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

From: Ann Freiburg, Chief ^{AmF}
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: February 19, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The vaccine for COVID-19 is an important tool for helping us get back to normal. It protects you and may protect those around you. Vaccine distribution is very localized, so you will need information specific to your county/region of the State. To find out where you can get a vaccine, visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>. You may also access information from your local county health department: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/contact-us/idph-regional-health-departments>. If you live in the city of Chicago, visit <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/sites/covid19-vaccine/home/latest-updates.html>.

Getting vaccinated affords a critical layer of protection against the virus but **DOES NOT** change the maximum of 10 EI families to whom you can provide in-person services. **Even after being vaccinated, you should continue wearing a mask, washing your hands, and maintaining a minimum of six feet between you and others whenever possible.**

Last week, a [resource roundup](#) was posted on the Provider Connections website. This is a handy reference for links to many of the resources that have been developed in response to the pandemic. In addition, the Early Childhood Technical Assistance Center (ECTA) continues to develop resources to support remote service delivery. Check out their infographics for [evaluation/assessment](#) and [completing the Child Outcomes Summary](#).

Several changes to the use of IFSP development time have been approved during the pandemic. At the start of the pandemic, IFSP development time was expanded to allow billing for intervention visits with families via phone consultation. Beginning January 1st, IFSP development time use was expanded to support consultation time with other early childhood support members outside the child's IFSP team with family consent, e.g. school district personnel. While both of these uses are still billable, IFSP development time is **NOT** to be billed for previously non-billable activities, e.g. staff supervisory time, routine preparatory activities, file review, development of lesson plans prior to a visit time to leave voicemail messages, the scheduling and canceling of appointments, etc. For additional details, please consult the [Illinois EI Provider handbook](#).

The [Illinois Department of Public Health's website](#) continues to be the best source of information on [regional conditions](#) and the activities currently restricted and permitted within each region. For more details about approved activities within each tier, review the [updated plan](#).

Please continue to monitor the [Provider Connections website](#) often as all updates to policy and procedure will be posted here. [The EITP website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse](#) website should also be monitored for information and resources.

Stay safe and know that we appreciate all you do for infants, toddlers, and families!