



JB Pritzker, Governor

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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: August 14, 2020

Re: Early Intervention Weekly Update

The Bureau has been working with a diverse group of stakeholders to anticipate needs and guide responses to the challenges presented by the pandemic. Their perspectives have been invaluable in crafting communications and guidance to the field. We wanted to take this opportunity to thank all of them for their dedication to assisting the Bureau through this process. The members of the workgroup and their affiliations are listed below. If you want to share comments or concerns regarding Early Intervention (EI), including the Guidance established for resuming in-person services, you are welcome to contact your respective representative on the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention. The full listing of council members can be found here: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=37737>. Or, you may submit your questions at: DHS.EIQuestions@Illinois.gov. Understand that every submission may not necessarily receive a direct response due to the volume, but every submission is reviewed and, if necessary, actions are taken to help improve the system.

Re-Open Illinois EI Workgroup Members:

REPRESENTATIVE NAME/AFFILIATION	REPRESENTATIVE NAME/AFFILIATION
Meredith Barnes Parent	Heather Hofferkamp IDHS, Bureau of Early Intervention
Sarah Bauer Developmental Pediatrician Advocate Children's Hospital ECHO Autism	Sarah Isaacs EI Partner with EI Clearinghouse
Esther Beard IICEI Advocate Representative Community Organizing and Family Issues (COFI)	Reola Johnson CFC #10, LaRabida Hospital
Karen Berman Advocate The Ounce of Prevention Fund	Alison Liddle Illinois Physical Therapy Association EI Physical Therapist
Meghan Burke IICEI Parent Representative EI Partner with EI Clearinghouse	Dee Dee Lowery IICEI CFC Urban Representative CFC #1 - Youth Services Network

REPRESENTATIVE NAME/AFFILIATION	REPRESENTATIVE NAME/AFFILIATION
Susan Connor Director EI Partner with EI Training Program	Bryce Marable Ounce of Prevention Fu
Jessica Coonrod EI Partner with EI Monitoring Program	Jennie Marble EI Speech-Language Pathologist Integrated Pediatric Therapies, JCFS Chicago
Lynnette DeGraffenreid IICEI Provider Representative EI Developmental Therapist	Jen Matl President Illinois Developmental Therapy Association
Benny Delgado IICEI Provider Representative EI Developmental Therapist	Arkeitha Monroe Director EI Partner with EI Central Billing Office
Rob Derry Director EI Partner with Provider Connections	Christy Morrison IICEI Provider Representative EI Occupational Therapist (OT) Illinois OT Association Representative
Brenda Devito IICEI Chairperson Clearbrook	Lori Orr IICEI Representative Governor’s Office of Early Childhood Development
Kristy Doan IICEI ISBE Representative 619 Coordinator, Illinois State Board of Education	Karrie Potter Parent
Donna Emmons IICEI Head Start Representative Illinois Head Start Association	Gary Reed Program Director EI Partner with EI Monitoring Program
Chuck Farr IICEI CFC Rural Representative CFC #13, Regional Office of Education 26	Nisha Sanghvi IICEI Provider Representative EI Occupational Therapist
Ann Freiburg, Chief IDHS, Bureau of Early Intervention	Linda Saterfield IDHS
Karissa Genenbacher Illinois Speech-Language-Hearing Association Representative	Sarah Sobotka Developmental Pediatrician University of Chicago
Jenni Grissom IDHS - Bureau of Early Intervention	Sarah Thompson GOECD Family Engagement/Parent
Chelsea Guillen EI Ombudsman EI Partner with EI Training Program	Angel Williams IICEI Representative Illinois Department of Children & Family Services
Tracy Gunderson IICEI Provider Representative EI Speech-Language Pathologist	Yolanda Williams Co-Chair of Early Learning Council Designee
Margaret Harkness IICEI Representative Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities	Amy Zimmerman Advocate IICEI Advocate Representative

The Re-Open Illinois EI workgroup continues to meet weekly to review data, receive subgroup updates on identified priorities and respond to emerging needs. We would like to highlight two additional resources that workgroup members helped develop. The first is a list of social-emotional resources for families and the second is a set of talking points that service coordinators can use to guide their discussions with families.

- 1) [Social-emotional supports for families during COVID-19](#)
- 2) [Family-informed decisions: service coordinator talking points](#)

As new information becomes available, the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) and the [Illinois Department of Public Health](#) continue to update their recommendations. Recently, they posted new guidance related to the discontinuation of home isolation for individuals who have been infected with COVID-19. The new guidance allows **people with COVID-19 who have symptoms** and were directed to care for themselves at home to discontinue isolation under the following conditions:

- At least 10 days* have passed since symptom onset **and**
- At least 24 hours have passed since resolution of fever without the use of fever-reducing medications **and**
- Other symptoms have improved.

*A limited number of persons with severe illness may produce replication-competent virus beyond 10 days, that may warrant extending duration of isolation for up to 20 days after symptom onset.

In addition, **people infected with COVID-19 who never develop symptoms** may discontinue isolation and other precautions 10 days after the date of their first positive test. All Illinois-specific guidance and FAQs impacted by these changes will be revised to reflect this new information and posted on the Provider Connections website as soon as possible.

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

We express our gratitude to all the stakeholders who have continued to support families through this difficult time. We continue to focus on providing high quality services and supports to families, while also minimizing the risk and potential spread of COVID-19.