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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: January 29, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention's Reopen Illinois EI Workgroup met again on January 26, 2021. Discussions centered around vaccines and messaging to the field.

As mentioned previously, EI providers, along with other early childhood personnel, are included in Priority Group 1B of Illinois' vaccination plan. Vaccinations for this group began on Monday, January 25, 2021. Additional information about the State's vaccination plan can be found [here](#).

It is important to note that vaccine distribution is very localized, so you will need information that is 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 at <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>.

Important things to know before setting up an appointment for your vaccine:

1. No proof of citizenship or legal residency is required to obtain a vaccine.
2. You will be asked to sign a "self-attestation". This affirms that you are an early childhood education provider and eligible for a vaccine in Priority Group 1B.
3. If you go through your local county health department for the vaccine, you may be asked to demonstrate you live in that county. A drivers' license, State ID or utility bill will suffice as proof.
4. It is important to know that the State is not requiring proof to receive a vaccine in a priority grouping. However, some locations may ask you to demonstrate you are an early childhood education provider and qualify for the vaccine in Priority Group 1B. Please know that you cannot be turned away if you do not have proof of profession. However, to be safe, we encourage you to bring any of the following documentation:
  - a. Credential/enrollment in Illinois' Early Intervention System:  
<https://www.providerconnections.org/public/home.mvc>
  - b. Your Gateways Registry Membership Card. To enroll in Gateways and/or download your Gateways Registry Membership Card ID, visit <https://registry.ilgateways.com>
  - c. A pay stub, if you work for an agency
  - d. A work ID, if you have one

An effective and easily accessible vaccine will help us return to pre-pandemic normal. 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.. For additional information about the safety and efficacy of the vaccine, you can visit <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/covid-19/index.html>.

By taking the vaccine, you are receiving a critical layer of protection for yourself, your family, your friends, and co-workers. Though the vaccine is an important protection, you should continue wearing a mask, washing your hands, and maintaining a minimum of six feet between you and other people whenever possible.

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. As of yesterday, there was only one region that was still required to employ tier 3 mitigation strategies. It is important to stay informed about your regional conditions. While these don't currently impact how early intervention services are delivered, engaging in only permitted activities outside of work improves our chances of mitigating risk and keeping all system stakeholders safe. 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.

Please continue to exercise caution and stay healthy. We appreciate all you do for infants, toddlers, and families!