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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: August 27, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The IICEI telehealth workgroup met at the beginning of August and has recently shared their recommendations for live video visit use beyond the pandemic. The Bureau will be reviewing these to determine next steps.

Illinois continues to see concerning trends, e.g. increasing positivity rates, decreasing hospital bed availability and/or increasing COVID-19 patients in the hospital, in *every* region. As a result, we are again reminding everyone about the importance of using the strategies outlined in the [revised plan](#) to mitigate the spread of this virus. **We recommend that everyone (providers, service coordinators, and families) continue wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distance.** To the degree possible, we also recommend providing services in well-ventilated indoor spaces or outdoors and discourage bringing toys into families' homes. If providers encounter families unwilling to use masks or if families encounter providers unwilling to use a mask, they should reach out to their service coordinator for assistance.

The [Illinois Department of Public Health's website](#) continues to be the best source of information on [regional conditions](#) and the activities permitted within each region. For details about approved activities, review the [updated plan](#). If you need information about where you can get a vaccine, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>.

As mentioned previously, providers should continue to provide the amount of service authorized on the Individualized Family Service Plan and should only be shortening the length of visits at a family's request. It is permissible to offer two, shorter visits within the same week to reach the full amount of time authorized, e.g. two thirty minute visits rather than one sixty minute visit. If provider claims are denied due to this change, they can reach out to the CBO to create a ticket for resolution.

The Bureau requests that everyone review the [Provider Informational Notice](#) that was posted Wednesday August 25, 2021 regarding information that needs to be updated in IMPACT **by September 15, 2021**. IMPACT also sent the [Department of Healthcare and Family Services formal notice](#) to the enrolled provider's e-mail on file with IMPACT. You must review the enrollment information and even if no updates are necessary, you will need to *Verify and Save* the information. Thank you for your attention to, and compliance with, this matter and for spreading the word through the provider community so that all providers/enrolled entities continue to receive necessary updates from IMPACT.

Please monitor the [Provider Connections' website](#) for updates to policy and procedure. The [EITP's website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse's website](#) should also be monitored for information and resources.

Thank you for continuing to make decisions that maximize the safety of our entire community!