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To: All Early Intervention Payees and Providers
Child and Family Connections Service Coordinators and Staff
All Early Intervention Families

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

Date: June 23, 2021

RE: Revised Early Intervention Plan for Resuming In-Person Services

This informational notice is to provide all Early Intervention (EI) stakeholders with an update to Service Delivery Guidelines for Early Intervention in Illinois.

Following further consultation with IDPH, the following changes to EI services can begin immediately.

The service delivery method must remain a team (family/caregiver and EI Provider) discussion that considers the options available and potential risk factors to the family and Provider. It is anticipated that in-person service delivery will now be standard practice with exceptions related to team member risk factors/preferences. It is recommended that interventionists who are fully vaccinated support families requesting in-person services. As stated before, this recommendation is in place because children under 3 are not yet eligible to be vaccinated. This means that EVERY family visited has at least one unvaccinated person and that this person can potentially contract and pass on the virus. We continue to advocate for an approach that minimizes risk to both our Provider community and families.

With the move to Phase 5, there are no longer limits on the number of families that can be seen in-person by any individual EI Provider. Families may have more than one Provider in the home (dependent on family agreement and comfort level). Individuals should continue to wear masks indoors. We continue to recommend that teams consider conducting in-person visits outdoors or in well-ventilated areas to the maximum extent possible. Masks can be removed outdoors when physical distancing can be maintained, pending family agreement and comfort level. As always, team members should continue to utilize good handwashing practices and sanitize items that are used across homes before each use.

In-person services should not occur if any individual participating has tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days or if they are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19. In addition, if individuals who are not fully vaccinated have been exposed to someone who tested positive for COVID-19 in the last 14 days, in-person services should not occur. **In the event of an exposure, Providers and families need to adhere to the quarantine guidelines provided by their local health department which may override this guidance.**

All team members should check their current local case rate by visiting the IDPH website's listing, [by county](#). This information should be used to assess risk and inform ongoing decisions about the family's and Provider's willingness to continue in-person services. All EI Providers should be very familiar with the Region they reside or work within. The information on the Regional breakdown is on the IDPH website at <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/restore-illinois-regional-dashboard>.

It is recommended that all EI Payees, Providers, and Service Coordinators monitor the [EI Provider Connections website](#) on a weekly basis. If revisions to this guidance are needed, information will be updated and posted on the EI Provider Connections website as well as other EI Partner websites. Additional resources can be found by visiting the [EI Training Program's website](#).

Parents are welcome to monitor the [EI Provider Connections website](#) for the latest information and can find other great family resources at the [EI Clearinghouse](#).

We sincerely appreciate the efforts that have been made to allow us to reach this point! We continue to seek your cooperation in protecting the citizens of Illinois by following these guidelines. If you have any questions about this notice, please contact the Bureau directly at 217/782-1981 or by submitting your questions to DHS.EIQuestions@illinois.gov.