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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: November 6, 2020

Re: Early Intervention Weekly Update

The Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention's (IICEI) Reopen Illinois Early Intervention (EI) Workgroup will meet again next week. Subgroups continue to meet in order to address the identified priorities and telehealth and communication objectives are being addressed by IICEI workgroups.

As of this week, all eleven regions are implementing mitigation strategies. 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. It is imperative that early interventionists follow the Bureau's guidance. **Consistent screening, honest reporting, and diligent use of personal protective equipment and hand washing are our best opportunities to mitigate risk to all system stakeholders.**

While the Bureau cannot dictate providers' activities outside of EI, it is important to consider the impact of these activities on the families served in EI. Essentially, the more people that an interventionist has sustained (or cumulative) contact with, the greater the risk to the interventionist as well as the children/families being served.

Also, as mentioned in previous [guidance](#), family members above the age of 2 are expected to wear a mask during the entirety of their interaction with early intervention personnel. If they are unwilling to wear a mask, in-person services may not be provided. This is recommended for the health and safety of all stakeholders.

The Bureau is still seeking feedback on the overall plan for EI services and our response to mitigation restrictions. The plan for distributing a limited supply of face masks to providers and CFCs is nearly finalized. More information about how these supplies can be accessed will be provided soon.

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 monitor the changing conditions in your region. Awareness is a critical step in stopping the spread. We are stronger together!