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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: November 13, 2020

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention's Reopen Illinois EI Workgroup met again this week. The conversation of the workgroup focused on approval and distribution of the overall plan for EI that aligns with the Restore Illinois phases, questions/concerns related to the proposed response to tiered mitigation strategies, updated Center on Disease Control (CDC) language about close contacts, and information from standing items/other workgroups.

While awaiting approval and distribution of the plan we remind all providers of current guidance that states, "providers and service coordinators must adhere to any local, county or city ordinances and regulations when presenting service delivery options to families".

As of this week, all eleven regions are implementing mitigation strategies. Regions 1, 5, 7, and 8 are now implementing tier 2 strategies and the City of Chicago is implementing a stay at home advisory for thirty days starting Monday, November 16th. 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. **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.**

As referenced above, the CDC has revised its definition of [close contact](#). The revised definition acknowledges that repeated, shorter duration contacts have the same potential to transmit infection as a longer, sustained contact. For example, three, five minutes periods of contact with an infected person carry similar risk as fifteen minutes of sustained contact. For now, we are not changing any of our current guidance in response to this revision but it is important to understand that contact with others not in the EI world can potentially meet this revised definition and should be considered when planning on any in-person contact.

We hope to have a plan for distributing a limited supply of face masks to providers and CFCs in the near future. More information about how these supplies can be accessed will follow final decisions.

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!