



JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

823 East Monroe • Springfield, Illinois 62701
401 S. Clinton Avenue • Chicago, IL 60607

To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: March 26, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The Interagency Council on Early Intervention Reopen EI workgroup met Tuesday, March 22, 2021. They reviewed EI Partners' COVID activities and feedback from Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) contacts about expanding the number of families that can be seen in person as of April 1st. For additional details, see the [updated guidance](#) released Thursday, March 25, 2021. New and updated information for families to coincide with the updated guidance has also been created and will be posted as quickly as possible.

While new or additional Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) meetings do not need to be held to discuss changes in service modality if those discussions have already occurred, teams should continue to communicate about *how* a family is receiving their services to ensure needs are being met. We continue to support only one EI Provider be in the home at a time. At this time, interpreters should continue to provide their services via phone or LVV.

Given the constantly evolving nature of COVID information, the Bureau continues to rely on the information provided by IDPH to inform system decisions. Their input informs both the numbers of families that can be safely seen in-person as well as the protocols that should be used to minimize risks to families and system personnel.

The vaccine for COVID-19 is an important tool for helping us get back to normal. Vaccine distribution is localized. You will need information specific to your county/region of the State. To find where you can get a vaccine, visit <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/>. You may also access information from your local county health department: <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>. As mentioned last week, do not send proof of vaccination information to Child and Family Connections (CFC) offices. **They will not be tracking or using this information.** This is protected health information and should be kept confidential.

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](#).

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

Stay safe and know that we appreciate all you do for infants, toddlers, and families!