



JB Pritzker, Governor

Illinois Department of Human Services

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: May 7, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The Governor announced Illinois would move into the Bridge Phase of the Reopening Plan as of May 14, 2021. The Bridge Phase allows for expanded capacity limits for many businesses and gatherings while we await the full reopening of Phase 5. If indicators continue to move in the desired fashion, Illinois could enter Phase 5 as soon as June 11, 2021. As of right now, the move to the Bridge Phase does not include any changes in current early intervention practices.

Early intervention stakeholders continue to gather information to enhance planning for our post-pandemic early intervention system. As part of this planning for post-pandemic service delivery, we seek feedback on family experiences with Live Video Visits. Families are asked to complete a survey on Live Video Visit use in early intervention. Families can access this survey in [English](#) or [Spanish](#).

The Bureau continues to value the vaccine as an effective and safe tool for helping us get back to normal. Vaccine distribution has expanded and is now accessible through many private physicians' offices and smaller medical providers. To find where you can get a vaccine, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>. Start Early has compiled some [resources](#) that address Frequently Asked Questions about Vaccines. These will be updated as needed.

In addition, we encourage you to wear masks, wash hands, and maintain physical distance. Also, remember to refrain from bringing materials/toys or other personal objects into the homes and only have one provider in-person with a family. 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!