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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: December 22, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

The Bureau is continuing its work on implementing extended early intervention services. Stakeholders met again last week to review drafts of policies, procedures, forms, and resources. As a reminder, a [document](#) for CFCs and providers has been posted. Next steps include gaining approval of drafts from legal and the Office of Special Education Programs and posting the information for public comment.

For those who have not yet heard, I would like to share that after 34 years of employment with the State of Illinois, I am retiring. I have plans to spend more time with my family in my hometown and especially to be there to help with my newest granddaughter who was born earlier this month. I want to share how much respect I have for each of you and the work you do on behalf of early intervention. I am also pleased to share that Heather Hofferkamp has stepped up to be the Interim Bureau Chief to continue to move the Bureau forward!

With the new variants of the virus, Illinois continues to see concerning trends related to COVID-19. It is important that everyone continue using the strategies outlined in the [revised plan](#) to mitigate the spread of this virus. **In addition, everyone (providers, service coordinators, and families) should continue wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distance.** Those who are able should also obtain the vaccine and booster.

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](#). If you need information about where you can get a vaccine, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>. Continue to 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.

As we reflect on another year of dealing with the pandemic, I am reminded of the dedication of each of you. With all the wonderful things happening in early childhood, the Bureau is looking forward to the new year and working with all of you to improve the lives of children and families in Illinois! Wishing you a very happy holiday season and a wonderful New Year!