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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: June 19, 2020

Re: Early Intervention Weekly Update

For the week ending June 19, 2020, we finish our fourth week of meeting as a workgroup to establish a clear plan for moving forward during the remaining Phases of Restore Illinois. As the end of Phase 3 of Restore Illinois is quickly approaching and Phase 4 is stepping forward, the workgroup took an immediate focus to develop a draft for review during next week's meeting that will provide guidance on resuming face-to-face in a manner consistent with the Restore Illinois phased plan as well as follows CDC and Public Health limitations.

With this week's update, we retain all policies and procedures previously developed for service delivery in Early Intervention (EI) during COVID19, including Phone Consultation and Live Video Visits and required medical/clinic-based face-to-face, until further notice. Our partners continue to develop [resources](#) to support this work.

The Phased Plan to Re-Open Early Intervention workgroup met on June 16, 2020 and made the decision to focus on the core areas addressed during the previous meetings. There are now multiple sub-workgroups focused on creating the necessary guidance for very specific elements of service delivery that have caused some issues to date. One such sub-workgroup is focused on electronic/digital signatures on consent forms as well as secure and compliant methods of sharing those consents.

The facilitators of the workgroup also engaged with subject-matter-experts through the Illinois Department of Public Health last week to learn standards that ensure safety of families, providers and service coordinators are included in our plan to resume any face-to-face within the natural environment location(s).

As expressed previously, the workgroup still anticipates that the phases of "re-opening" EI will include a hybrid of continued Phone Consultation, Live Video Visits and face-to face interactions for a period of time until the data and science allow for full re-opening across all regions of the State. Listening to families, providers and service coordinators has resulted in the need to provide flexibility within the near future for delivery of EI services!

The workgroup is meeting weekly moving forward and the sub-workgroups are scheduled on a very fast-paced schedule to finalize our plan to resume some face-to-face services. Look for another update next week as we commit to consistent communication!