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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: July 31, 2020

Re: Early Intervention Weekly Update

For the week ending July 31, 2020, the Bureau, together with a diverse group of stakeholders, has been collecting questions from the field related to the [Guidance](#) for resuming in-person services in early intervention. We have been working to consolidate all of the questions received to date and to generate responses. Additionally, we have established a dedicated email to collect questions from this point forward: DHS.EIQuestions@illinois.gov. Questions submitted will shape the content of future FAQs, resource development, and revisions to the Guidance as we continue to move through the Restore Illinois phases.

A number of questions have arisen about how to prioritize families for in-person services. Given the State's commitment to equity and access, teams are being asked to prioritize in-person services to the children/families who have not been supported via phone or live video visits during the pandemic. Additional considerations include the family's readiness to resume services and the length of time remaining before the child transitions out of the early intervention system.

We have also been actively working with our system partners and Reopen Illinois Early Intervention workgroup members to develop resources that will support implementation of the Guidance. Support and information for CFCs, Service Coordinators and Providers can be found on the Early Intervention Training Program's Re-Entry and Safety Resources during COVID-19 page: <https://go.illinois.edu/EICOVIDSafety>.

A few items that may be particularly helpful include:

- The [In-Person Early Intervention Checklists during COVID-19 Pandemic](#) (pdf) which includes the following:
 - How to Be Safe
 - Preparing Families for the Visit
 - Daily Health Checklist
 - Family Screening Risk Checklist
- Recorded FAQ for Resuming In-Person Services: [Q & A Information Session Section 1](#)
- Recorded FAQ for Resuming In-Person Services: [Q & A Information Session Section 2](#)

In addition, the EI Clearinghouse and workgroup members have developed resources for Families:

- [EI Clearinghouse Tech Loan](#)
- [Having Safe In-Person Visits Tip Sheet](#)
- Live webinar presented by *Family Matters* on July 29, 2020: [Answering Family Questions about Early Intervention & Transition During Covid-19](#)
- Family FAQ (Coming soon)

The Re-Open Illinois EI workgroup continues to meet weekly to review data and receive subgroup updates on the identified priorities. The workgroup continues to monitor preparations for in-person services, respond to the needs of the field, and plan for adaptations or changes that may be necessary moving forward.

Please continue to monitor the [Provider Connections](#), [EITP website](#), [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse](#) often for additional information as it becomes available.

Please know that we do truly appreciate the dedication of the stakeholders who have helped form the Guidance as well as all the stakeholders who have continued to support families through this difficult time. Our goal continues to provide the highest quality services and supports to families, while minimizing the risk and potential spread of COVID-19.