

COUNTY OF SUFFOLK



SUFFOLK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES DIVISION OF SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Recommendations for Resuming EI Home Visits during the COVID-19 Pandemic

As per guidance from NYSBEI, EI services should continue to be provided via telehealth, to the greatest extent possible. If it is decided that the service/evaluation should be provided in-person, the following procedures should be in place:

1. Contact Family (e.g. by telephone, email, text) prior to each home visit and ask the following questions:

- Have you or anyone in your household tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days?
- Has anyone in your household experienced symptoms of COVID-19 in the past 14 days? (Symptoms include, but are not limited to: cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fever, chills, headache, muscle or body aches, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, diarrhea, fatigue, or new loss of taste and/or smell)
- Have you been in close contact (within 6 feet for 10 minutes or more) in the past 14 days with anyone who has tested positive for COVID-19 or who has symptoms of COVID-19?
- **IN-PERSON VISITS SHOULD NOT OCCUR IF ANY OF THE ABOVE ANSWERS ARE “YES”.**

2. Provider precautions prior to a visit:

- Ensure that the provider and the family have appropriate face coverings as per guidance from the New York State Health Department. Provide the family with resources to protect themselves against the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.
- Ask the family if the visit can be conducted outside. If the visit cannot be conducted outside, ask to conduct the session by an open window for increased ventilation.
- Take your temperature prior to each work day and keep for your records.
- Take a survey of your own signs and symptoms each day and keep for your records.
- Ask the family to sanitize the space you will use for the visit just prior to your arrival.

3. Take precautions while at a visit:

- Require that only one parent/guardian participate in the session with no other family members in the same room or outdoor space.



- Prior to the start of the visit, the provider should wash their hands and request the parent and child wash their hands. Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. Hand hygiene after removing PPE is particularly important, to get rid of any germs that might have been transferred to bare hands during the removal process. If soap and water are not immediately available, an alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol may be used. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- Sanitize the space you will be using in the home/outside prior to beginning your session with a 10% bleach solution or disinfecting wipes.
- Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and the child/family member, when possible.
- Minimize physical contact with the child and frequently touched surfaces in the home.
- Use only toys and materials found in the home. NYSBEI has stated in the *Resuming In-Person Early Intervention Program Services* document: **“bringing materials and toys from outside into home and community-based settings is strictly prohibited.”**
- All individuals over the age of two are required to wear a face covering, to the maximum extent possible. Providers must change mask between visits.
- Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Exit the home immediately if any person is found to be ill within the home.
- If you feel ill during the day, immediately return home, monitor symptoms, and contact your supervisor and your healthcare provider.

4. Take precautions after visit:

- Sanitize the handles and inside of your car at the start of each day, at the conclusion of each day, and in between visits when possible.
- Parents should be advised to sanitize any toys and materials used during the session and store in an open area with plenty of airflow.

5. Practitioners should also consider the following:

- Establishing communication and notification protocols if he/she tests positive for COVID-19.
- Consider hybrid service delivery (a combination of remote and in-person services) for individual families based on their needs and as appropriate.

NOTE: This continues to be a rapidly evolving situation. It is the responsibility of each provider to follow all New York State Department of Health guidelines, any New York State Education Department guidelines, and those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Provider Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

