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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

From: Ann Freiburg, Chief 
Bureau of Early Intervention

Date: August 27, 2020

Re: Early Intervention Weekly Update for Week Ending August 28, 2020

The Reopen Illinois EI Workgroup met again this week. We reviewed data, received subgroup updates on identified priorities, and discussed the impact of regions employing tiered mitigation strategies on early intervention services. Ongoing work includes developing a plan for distribution of a limited quantity of face masks to early intervention providers, working with procurement to provide a mechanism for collecting e-signatures on consents, finalizing the joint transition guidance and a companion document for families, creating a listing of social-emotional resources for providers and service coordinators, collecting information about current social emotional consultant activities, planning a regional training and support opportunity, identifying communication needs for various stakeholders, exploring authorization changes needed to adapt to changing service delivery options, reviewing data from the telehealth survey, and incorporating mitigation/tier information into the overall plan for early intervention.

The workgroup continues to emphasize the importance of communication. To that end, we ask that all providers and service coordinators direct families to the Early Intervention Clearinghouse website for information and resources. This week, a family-focused [Frequently Asked Questions](#) document about the return to in-person services was posted. Additional information for families will also be posted [here](#).

We now have two regions in the state that are implementing tiered mitigation strategies to combat a resurgence in positive cases. 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 Phase of the Restore Illinois plan. Additional information about the early intervention activities permitted within each phase and tier is under revision. If you have additional questions about the guidance for reopening Illinois' EI system, please submit your questions at: DHS.EIQuestions@Illinois.gov.

The Bureau is in the midst of processing retention payments for early intervention Payees. Thank you to those who have completed the survey. We are currently reviewing the information received, sharing documents for completion, and preparing to issue checks to Payees. If you have not

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submitted your survey, you can refer to the letter sent to the Payee or the [Provider Informational Notice](#) for additional information. There will be additional information shared shortly regarding the deadlines for submitting the survey and required documents.

Please continue to monitor the [Provider Connections website](#) often as all updates to policy and procedure will be posted here as they become available. The [Early Intervention Training Program website](#) and [Facebook](#) page, and the [EI Clearinghouse website](#) should also be monitored for information and resources.

We are humbled by the dedication of the stakeholders who have continued to support families through this difficult time. We continue to support a family-centered approach to services with a focus on minimizing risk to all stakeholders.