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To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: September 11, 2020

Re: Early Intervention Weekly Update

The Reopen Illinois EI Workgroup will be changing its structure and meeting frequency. Starting in October, this workgroup will be part of the Illinois Interagency Council on Early Intervention's advisory efforts. The workgroup will meet one more time before this transition occurs. Subgroups continue to meet and address the identified priorities.

Now that more is known about how contact tracing occurs when an individual tests positive for COVID-19, the in-person guidance for steps to take after confirmation of a positive case has been updated. It has been updated to clarify how notification of those who have been in close contact with a positive person will be handled. In addition, it is important to note that an individual person's identity will not be provided unless that person consents to that identification. Test results are considered protected health information, so they need to be confidentially maintained. Once approved, the Bureau will post on the EI Provider Connections website.

We still have two regions that are employing 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 currently restricted and permitted within each region. Additional information about how these mitigation strategies impact early intervention activities is under revision. If you live and work in different regions, early interventionists are asked to observe the guidance for the most restrictive region. For instance, if you live in Region 5 and work in Region 4 (which is currently employing mitigation strategies), you would need to uphold the guidance for Region 4 since it is currently more restrictive. This is one way we can play our part in mitigating risk to families.

The Bureau of Early Intervention is also working on a plan for distributing a limited supply of face masks to providers and CFCs. More information about accessing these supplies will be provided soon.

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

We are grateful for the dedication of the stakeholders who have continued to support families through this difficult time. We are seeing positive growth in coaching supports while we continue to limit risk to all stakeholders.