



**New Jersey Early Intervention
Return to In-Person Services
August 19, 2020**

The success of the state's response to Covid-19 has allowed New Jersey residents to continue resuming more and more daily activities with precautions. The Early Intervention System (NJEIS) is pleased to provide the following updated information on the status and plans for providing early intervention services in the coming months.

Q: Is there a plan to resume needed in-home services for children in early intervention?

A: Governor Murphy and the Commissioner of Health have determined that in-home early intervention services can resume for children and families.

Q: Will I be able to continue with Telehealth/video visits when in-person visits resume?

A: Yes, Telehealth visits have been an option for NJEIS since April 1, 2020. Many practitioners and families have reported successful implementation of strategies and therapy goals using telehealth throughout the state. Families should feel confident in continuing with this option for all or some of their services. There are a limited number of early intervention agencies that have an alternative, center-based location which may also be considered for services. Parents should feel comfortable in their decisions about the location and frequency of their services.

Q. What about IFSP meetings?

A: The NJEIS is encouraging that all meetings continue to be held by telephone and/or video platforms at this time. Alternatively, the NJEIS recommends that no more than 3 people participate in person, unless the location of the meeting can accommodate social distancing of 6 feet for all participants.

Q: When a provider comes to my home, will I be required to wear a mask? Will the provider wear a mask?

A: Yes. NJEIS must take every effort to assure the safety of thousands of children, their families, and practitioners across the state. While childcare, offices or schools can be held to health regulations, family's homes are not. This means that all families will need to do their part and agree to the protocols required by the Department of Health for services to be provided in their home. Adults and children over age 2 will be required to wear a mask, regularly wash their hands before and after sessions, clean toys and other objects and pass a daily health screening. NJEIS practitioners will follow the same procedures and requirements when providing your session.

Q: What comes next?

A: Your service coordinator, and practitioner(s) will soon reach out and have a conversation with you about your family's concerns, routines, and priorities and make any adjustments to your child's IFSP as needed.

On behalf of our service coordinators, practitioners, administrators and state staff, the leadership at the Department of Health would like to thank our early intervention families for being flexible and patient over these past few months. We look forward to being in-person with your child and family very soon.