

1/5/22

Good Afternoon Families in Early Intervention,

This email includes important updates sent 1/4/22 from Early Intervention (EI) Colorado/the Colorado Office of Early Childhood (OEC) regarding how Early Intervention activities (visits, evaluations, etc.) are to be provided given the recent spread of Covid-19, and the related risk to public safety. Based on their updates:

Effective immediately, it is recommended that all in-person EI activities (visits, evaluations, etc.) conducted by EI personnel (employees, contract providers, etc.) transition to virtual as soon as possible. This includes any evaluation activities conducted by Community Centered Boards (CCBs). For everyone's health & safety, DDRC highly recommends this transition to virtual visits occur as much as possible and has converted it's January evaluations to virtual. OEC/EI Colorado indicates this guidance will be reviewed and updated as appropriate by January 30, 2022.

This same information is being communicated to all EI providers and service coordinators. All providers have virtual capability, are highly equipped to provide virtual visits and are able to switch their visits from in-person to virtual (zoom or phone).

*EI Colorado anticipates that most services should be able to be conducted virtually. For circumstances where both the family **AND** provider feel it is not feasible to complete the activity/visit virtually, EI Colorado's communication includes specific guidelines that must be adhered to (the full OEC/EI Colorado communication is posted on the DDRC website), including but not limited to:*

- 1. required mutual agreement between parent **and** provider. If either party does not agree to completing an in-person visit, the visit must take place virtually*
- 2. required call prior to the visit to confirm the child & family feel well*
- 3. required mask wearing*
- 4. required hand washing before & after the visit*
- 5. required social distancing*
- 6. required limiting of number of people at the visit.*

To maximize health & safety, if your provider agrees to an in-person visit, you & others in your household may need to pass a COVID screening the same day as the visit. If that screening is not passed by one or more members of the household, the visit will need to be switched to virtual until the screening can be passed.

Certain additional DDRC policies & procedures based on CDC and other federal, state & county guidance may prohibit some providers from providing in-person visits. If your provider informs you that they can only complete virtual visits right now, please understand. Capacity is impacted by the pandemic and DDRC is not able to accommodate requests for a different provider because of a family preference for in-person, if their provider does not agree to provide an in-person visit at this time.

We understand this may be frustrating, but we need to ensure the health and safety of everyone involved, and we fully support anyone who does not feel safe being in-person at this time. Thank you for your understanding and flexibility during these challenging times. If you have any questions, please contact your EI provider or Service Coordinator.

Sincerely,

The DDRC Early Intervention Management Team

Michaelene Klawes, Director of Early Intervention; 303-462-6655

Susan Johnson, Director of Children & Family Services; 303-462-6612

Joy Miles, Service Coordination Team Lead

Allicia Maestas, Service Coordination Team Lead

Stacey Barnes, Assistant Director of Early Intervention

Monica Jeske, Early Intervention Contract Manager

NOTE: Conditions and procedures for visitations may change at any time.