

Early Intervention Colorado Safer At Home Frequently Asked Questions 6.11.20

Early Intervention (EI) Colorado would like to address questions that we are hearing from parents and family members regarding the continuation of Telehealth/video visits and the return to in-person visits. We would like families to know that they are missed and valued. EI Colorado is making every effort to assure the safety of families, children and the providers who serve them as all of the possibilities are considered. A workgroup with broad representation, including several family members, has been convened to think through the various situations and possible challenges that may arise as Stay at Home and Safer at Home restrictions are lifted. Below are some of the questions we have received. If you have specific questions please contact your service coordinator.

Where in the latest Executive Order does it mention Early Intervention?

A: The Governor's Safer At Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors executive order does not specifically mention EI services, therefore the EI Program is responsible for making decisions that best meet the needs of our program. Providers travel from home to-home which increases the risk of exposure for everyone and presents a unique challenge. EI services are not "essential medical care" but are developmental services that are provided in the child's everyday routines and activities in the child's natural environment.

Q: I can go to the gym, get a haircut, take my child to ballet classes and go to the store, why can't my child receive EI services in my home? While gyms and salons are held to health regulations, family's homes are not and it complicates the safe return to in-person visits. At this time guidance around child to child interactions is different than guidance for adult to child interactions. The people in the child's natural environment can vary widely from family to family. Many children in the EI program are considered part of the vulnerable population that should still stay at home and should not have contact with others. Some children live with family members that fall into this vulnerable category. Likewise, some providers are in this vulnerable population or have family members in this population. All of these factors need to be considered as in-person EI visits resume statewide.

All of the governor's executive orders can be found at <https://covid19.colorado.gov>

Additional guidance can be found here:

[Public Health Order 20-28 Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors Governor's Executive Order Safer at Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors](#)

Q: If some counties are opening at a different rate than other counties and my county is "open", can I go ahead and have my EI provider come to my home?

A: EI Colorado is committed to providing consistent guidance and the opportunity for equal access to services throughout the state. Members on the workgroup are from all over the state

and are providing a diverse perspective. EI providers serve families across counties and infection rates vary, making it difficult to provide guidance by county. The potential for COVID to spread has not lessened; proceeding with caution continues to be a top priority.

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

A: Yes, Telehealth/video visits have been an option for EI services since 2017 in Colorado. Moving forward it will definitely be an option for EI services and may continue to be an option for Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) Meetings as well.

Q: Can a provider come to my home to see my child if we have the visit outside in the yard or on the driveway under the new Safer At Home and in the Vast, Great Outdoors?

A: EI Colorado has made the decision that all visits will be provided virtually (through telehealth/video visits, phone or email) through at least June 30, 2020. The work group is conducting a survey of families who are currently receiving EI services and providers who are currently providing services to families to get input on the things that are currently going well and the current challenges and barriers that are happening with each group. The work group will make recommendations for how to move forward in July and beyond. Having visits outside could be one possibility.

Q: Can a provider come to my home to see my child if I sign a waiver?

A: This is currently not a possibility.

Q: When a provider does come into my home, will I be expected to wear a mask? Will the provider need to wear a mask?

A: The executive order of the Governor must be followed so providers and families will need to follow social distancing requirements, wear appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), use proper sanitizing techniques, etc. Providers also travel to multiple families' homes in their cars without the option to change clothes or wash thoroughly between visits. How to best do this safely is being considered by the work group. We will be closely following the Governor's updated orders as they come out in the following months. When considering the return to in-person visits, your provider will have a conversation with you about how to best resume visits safely.

Q: What if I want to end my EI services and pay privately for someone to come to my home?

A: Your service coordinator can help you with options if you no longer desire to participate in services from EI Colorado. If there is a medical concern related to your child, please contact your child's doctor. We hope you will be patient as we work out guidelines for resuming in-person visits that work for everyone.