



Illinois Department of Human Services

JB Pritzker, Governor

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

823 East Monroe ● Springfield, Illinois 62701
401 S. Clinton Avenue ● Chicago, IL 60607

To: All Early Intervention Stakeholders

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

Date: September 17, 2021

Re: Early Intervention (EI) Weekly Update

As the state of Illinois continues to navigate COVID-19 and see concerning trends, e.g. increasing positivity rates, decreasing hospital bed availability and/or increasing COVID-19 patients in the hospital in many regions, we are writing with important information. We ask everyone to use the strategies outlined in the [revised plan](#) to mitigate the spread of this virus. **We strongly recommend that everyone (providers, service coordinators, and families) continue wearing masks, washing hands, and maintaining physical distance.** To the degree possible, we also encourage providing services outdoors or in well-ventilated indoor spaces and discourage bringing toys into families' homes. If providers encounter families unwilling to use masks or if families encounter providers unwilling to use a mask, they should reach out to their service coordinator for assistance.

Please be sure to comply with [Executive Order 2021-22](#) (updating Executive Order 2021-20) as outlined in the [Provider Informational Notice](#) posted September 3, 2021 which described the vaccine and testing requirements based on the personnel serving families and children enrolled in EI.

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 region. For details about approved activities, review the [updated plan](#). If you need information about where you can get a vaccine, visit: <https://coronavirus.illinois.gov/s/vaccination-location>.

IMPACT Update Information

Please continue to work on updating your information in IMPACT as requested on the 08/24/21 [memo from HFS](#). There is a slide show at the bottom of the notice that will assist you as you move through the process.

It has come to our attention that many providers have requested additional information from the IMPACT Help Desk. IMPACT is asking everyone to continue to submit, as requested, through the remainder of the month.

Please note that IMPACT staff are working to respond to all questions, and that your enrollment will not be inactivated if you were unable to move forward with your updates due to an inquiry. **HFS is emphasizing that this is a requirement and all providers must update or verify their information in IMPACT.** If you are waiting for a response to any outreach to IMPACT staff, once your inquiry is addressed, please complete the mandatory updates as soon as possible.

One theme that appears for these required IMPACT updates is that many providers are having an issue when updating location information in the IMPACT system. HFS has informed us that the provider's hours of operation must also be included with the location information. So, once you have entered your hours of operation, the system should allow you to complete the remaining location updates. If you haven't accessed your information yet, please do so immediately.

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

Thank you for continuing to make decisions that maximize the safety of our entire community!