



Dear Early Intervention Families and Caregivers,

Re: Updated EI Visit & Service Coordination Activity Guidance

We hope this email finds you and your family well. This is a follow-up to the Early Intervention Colorado (EI CO) visit guidance that went into effect March 31<sup>st</sup>. EI Colorado lifted its guidance related to COVID restrictions.

While EI CO is one of our guiding entities, DDRC must also abide by other guiding entities and regulatory committees. At this time and until further notice, there are continued steps in place to keep your child, family, and providers safe.

#### ONGOING VISITS:

1. DDRC Employed licensed Direct Service Provider professional completing in-person/client-facing visits (in-home, in the community, at DDRC, etc.), are required to wear a mask during the visit. Masking for your family is optional but the provider may request you wear a mask to provide additional safety.
2. There is no longer a same day screening requirement. Prior to completing an in-person/client-facing visit, providers are encouraged to connect with you to ensure everyone in the house is feeling well enough for an in-person visit. While it is no longer required, the screening questions/screening tool are still an option, and providers can choose to have the family utilize the screener if they prefer.
3. If anyone in the house is not feeling well, the visit should be switched to virtual or should be rescheduled. The same applies if the provider is not feeling well.

If the above criteria are met, licensed Direct Service Provider professionals employed by DDRC can provide **in-person visits**. While in-person visits and meetings are permitted, they are not required, and EI Colorado continues to support and encourage all families and professionals who prefer to meet virtually to do so. **Virtual visits** are still a great option and should be utilized whenever someone prefers virtual visits, is not comfortable with, or is not able to complete an in-person visit. Contract providers are not required to but may choose to implement the same guidelines as outlined above.

Please be patient with providers as they are trying to schedule a full caseload of visits, with multiple visit types and varying family scheduling needs.

#### SERVICE COORDINATION ACTIVITIES:

While EI Colorado indicates **service coordination activities** can also occur in-person, DDRC has decided to continue Service Coordination activities virtually for the foreseeable future, as virtual IFSP meetings have been very successful for all involved. In addition, current staffing capacity makes travel to and from in-person meetings challenging. Like many other industries, we are also experiencing workforce shortages in Early Intervention.

We understand that for some of you, these restrictions are not what you were hoping to hear. We appreciate your understanding and patience as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times. Our goal is to continue to provide high quality and timely services to you and your family.

If you have any questions, please reach out to your Service Coordinator, or one of the DDRC Early Intervention Leaders listed below.

Sincerely,

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