

Transitioning to In-Person Activities during COVID-19 Reopening: Considerations for Local Infant & Toddler Connection Systems

This document includes key considerations for local systems as stay-at-home orders are eased and in-person activities begin to resume. Our priority continues to be the health and safety of early intervention staff and practitioners and the children and families we serve. The process of moving back to in-person activities will be a gradual transition, and there may be steps forwards and backwards depending on health trends and outbreaks. The process of and progress toward reopening will look different across local systems. Recommended considerations may also evolve over time, and this document will be revised, as needed, to reflect that.

Note: This document does not change the COVID-19 Temporary Policies and Procedures issued on March 19, 2020, which will remain in effect until notified otherwise in writing by the Infant & Toddler Connection of Virginia state office.

Consider the national, state and local requirements, recommendations and guidelines in effect for your area:

- CDC recommendations and guidelines - <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>
- Governor's Executive Orders - <https://www.governor.virginia.gov/executive-actions/>
- Virginia Department of Health recommendations - <https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/coronavirus/>
- Information from city and county governments in your local system area
- Information from your local lead agency

Consider what health and safety protocols you will follow for in-person activities:

- What health screening questions will you use for staff, practitioners, children and families:
 - Certain symptoms?
 - Travel to certain high-risk areas of Virginia or other states?
 - Exposure to someone with possible COVID-19 infection?
 - Other questions?
- How often will you implement health screening?
- What will your policies be for use of face coverings/other personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff and practitioners? Will you request use of face coverings by caregivers in the home or child care setting?
- How will you ensure necessary PPE for staff and practitioners? What if the family does not have access to a face covering but wants to use one during an in-person EI activity?
- How will you practice social distancing during in-person activities, like meetings and intervention visits?
- What steps will be necessary between in-person activities to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission and what supplies will be needed to make this possible?
 - Sanitizing hands
 - Sanitizing supplies
 - What else?
- What will be the protocols for communication and notification if a staff member or practitioner tests positive for COVID-19? If a child or family receiving or scheduled to receive in-person visits tests positive?

Consider in-person service delivery issues:

- How will you prioritize who receives in-person services first (e.g., families unable to access virtual visits or with unstable internet, underserved families, intakes, assessments, etc.)?
- How will you schedule in-person activities to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission (e.g., most vulnerable children/families first thing, leave enough time between visits to sanitize after each, etc.)?
- As in-person services resume, how will you identify the children who may need IFSP reviews to determine the need for service changes, including whether there is a need for make-up or compensatory services to address the child's developmental delay?
- What happens if a provider or family must self-quarantine for two weeks due to exposure to someone who has tested positive for or potentially has COVID-19 (but is feeling well)?

Consider needed infrastructure adjustments or flexibilities:

- What unintended positive impacts occurred as a result of administrative adjustments and/or policy and procedure changes made in response to the COVID-19 emergency, and what needs to/should be retained?
- Are any changes to provider contracts (e.g., requiring liability insurance for providing services in centers/clinic, requiring use of PPE to employees, requiring health screenings) needed as in-person activities resume?
- Is there a need for professional development around health and safety protocols?
- How and how often will you update referral sources on the status of in-person service delivery?
- What are your contingency plans if cases of COVID-19 increase?
- What is your current budget status (deficit vs. surplus) as a result of the COVID-19 emergency? What do you expect your budget needs to be over the next six months based on various scenarios?