

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators
From: Nathan DeDino
Date: March 13, 2020
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2006

MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR

On March 9, Governor DeWine signed [Executive Order 2020-01D](#) declaring a state of emergency in Ohio due to the dangerous effects of COVID-19. This is a fluid, fast-moving situation. Yesterday, DODD issued EI-specific guidance. You can access it [here](#). Please share widely. If you have additional questions, please follow up with your EI program consultant. We have compiled the questions we have received and answered them in this Program Updates.

Thank you for your patience during this time. Most especially, thank you for the support you are able to continue to provide to the families you serve.

We are including county board superintendents on the distribution list for this Program Updates. If you are not already subscribed to the EI Program Updates list, you can do so on the EI website [here](#).

I always invite your feedback. Do not hesitate to contact me at nathan.dedino@dodd.ohio.gov. I look forward to hearing from you.

PROGRAM UPDATES

COVID-19 and EI Questions

We have received a number of questions about the EI guidance related to COVID-19 we provided to the field yesterday. Below follow answers to the questions we have received. In the coming days, we will post these questions and answers online along with answers to additional questions we receive.

Technology-Related Questions

- Can an evaluation be completed over the phone or using technology?
 - ~~A Bayley or Battelle evaluation cannot be completed fully without performing some parts in person. Therefore, an evaluation cannot be done exclusively using technology.~~ On March 25, 2020, DODD released guidance on how to complete an evaluation using technology. This guidance is available at <https://ohioearlyintervention.org/>.
- Can we complete a child assessment using a tool that does not require it to be administered in-person?

- Yes. Many assessment tools do not require in-person administration. Additionally, observation can be used in lieu of a tool for the child assessment.
- How do we get signatures if we are providing an EI activity via technology that requires a signature?
 - Refer to the IFSP guidance document p30 for guidance on electronic signatures. In cases during the public emergency where an electronic or paper signature is not feasible, ensure the parent has a copy of the completed form and document the parent's consent via other means (e.g., an e-mail or text from the parent).
- If we provide prior written notice to conduct a developmental screening or to change the method for EI service delivery to technology and the parent wants to waive the 10 days, do we need to receive an initialed waiver for the 10 day waiting period?
 - No. Document the parent's desire to waive the 10 days via other means (e.g., an e-mail or text from the parent).
- What telehealth platform works the best: I see Doxy.me or Zoom in the messaging but any others?
 - There are a variety of platforms that are available. It is up to the agency to determine which platform is the best fit for the unique needs of the agency. Note that the licensed version of Zoom is the HIPAA compliant version.
- What if the families you are supporting do not have access to the internet?
 - Consistent with any practice laws, and the service you are providing, you can provide services using an audio-only option.

Program Questions

- Should a provider send prior written notice if it will be closed for an extended period of time and not able to provide services?
 - Yes. If a provider is aware that it will not be able to provide services for an extended period of time consistent with the IFSP, the provider should send the parent prior written notice that it will not be providing the service.
- Does an EI provider need to contact the service coordinator prior to providing a service via technology if it is listed as in-person on the IFSP?
 - The provider should ensure that the service coordinator is part of these discussions with the family.
- If a parent chooses not to have an evaluation due to COVID-19, is that an acceptable NCR?
 - Yes, if a parent, for whatever reason, chooses not to complete an evaluation or waits to have an evaluation, this is a parent NCR.
- Can we do an interim IFSP when establishing eligibility with a completed form EI 12?
 - Yes, during the state of emergency, DODD will not limit interim IFSPs to diagnoses on the list.
- If a county cannot complete an evaluation to determine eligibility due to closure or prohibition against completing home visits, how should this be handled?
 - If the parent wants the evaluation completed and the provider cannot complete it, this is a system non-compliance reason. EI providers should document the circumstances and inform the family that the evaluation will be scheduled when the provider re-opens and is able to complete home visits.

EI Training Cancellations and Reschedules

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and consistent with Executive Order 2020-01D, DODD is canceling all EI trainings between March 10 and April 15. This includes the following trainings:

- Advanced Reflective Supervision (March 30)
- SPARK Communication (April 1-2)
- RBI (April 8)
- RBI (April 14)
- Bayley (April 14)
- RBI (April 15)

We are in the process of rescheduling these trainings. Some of these will be converted to virtual trainings and, when possible, on the same day as the in-person training was scheduled. Registrants will be notified as soon as possible about rescheduled sessions and will need to register for the new sessions. If you have any questions, please Lori Myers at lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

SFY 2020 45-Day Analysis (Group 1)

Activities related to the SFY 2020 45-Day analysis are underway. Data were extracted February 24. Applicable missing data and verification requests were sent March 2 and are due back to DODD by Tuesday, March 17. Contact Melissa Courts at melissa.courts@dodd.ohio.gov with any questions.

County Transfers

DODD is reviewing the responses received to the survey regarding county transfers in Early Intervention. We will be putting together updated guidance and/or FAQs to address the questions and concerns we received. In the meantime, the guidance distributed in July 2018 is still applicable and a helpful resource that outlines transfer requirements:

<https://ohioearlyintervention.org/storage/ocali-ims-sites/ocali-ims-oei/documents/Early-Intervention-Data-System-County-Transfer-Guidance.pdf>

RESOURCES AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New Bayley Training Session

We have added an additional training session on the Bayley Scales of Infant and Toddler Development-IV. The session is scheduled for June 2 from 9:00am to 4:30pm at the Columbus Developmental Center, 1601 W. Broad Street, Columbus, Ohio 43222.

To register, please access the course on MyLearning.

If you have questions, please contact Lori Myers at lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov.

Survey about the Bayley-IV

To help with training planning, we would appreciate feedback from counties that use the Bayley as their evaluation tool. We are interested in the process of transitioning from the Bayley-III to the Bayley-IV. Please consider completing this brief survey to assist with our planning.

Click the link below to take the survey.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HX3HM2V>

New Webinar: Deafblindness – Raising Awareness on Dual Sensory Impairment

Please join Linda Bass-Johnoff with the Ohio Center for Deafblind Education. She will discuss the definition of deafblindness in Ohio, common causes and the importance of early identification. She will explain her organization's services and provide resources to support families of children with dual sensory impairments. The webinar will be held April 21 from 8:30-10:00 a.m. as part of our Doughnuts with Di series. Click the link below to register.

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8645448239754180620>

If you have questions, please contact Lori Myers, lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov