

To: All Early Intervention contract managers and FCFC coordinators  
From: Nathan DeDino  
Date: March 20, 2020  
Subject: Early Intervention Program Updates, #2007

## ***MESSAGE FROM THE PART C COORDINATOR***

Over the past week, we have released several communications about EI and the COVID-19 pandemic. They are posted with other DODD COVID-19 guidance [here](#). We are sending this off-week EI Program Updates today to provide some framework to these multiple communications, provide guidance about supporting families during the pandemic, offer some resources related to providing EI services through technology, and address EI compliance.

We continue to be heartened by the stories you are sharing with us about staff stepping up and going the extra mile to serve families during this challenging time. You are making a difference, and we are grateful for your continued efforts. Thank you.

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

## ***RELEASED GUIDANCE***

### *March 12 Initial EI and COVID-19 Guidelines*

- This initial communication provided guidelines prioritizing health and safety concerns over EI timelines, how to categorize noncompliance with an EI timeline, how to use technology to complete different EI activities, and best practices to stop the spread of the COVID-19 virus. These guidelines included a variety of waivers to EI rules related to the use of technology.

### *March 13 EI Program Updates, #2006*

- This regularly scheduled EI program updates was devoted mostly to issues related to the COVID-19 pandemic and the state of emergency. It included questions DODD had received about the guidelines released on March 12 and how best to provide services during the state of emergency. The communication also included information about canceled and rescheduled trainings.

### *March 19 Frequently Asked Questions*

- This communication provided answers to additional questions DODD had received related to the guidelines and providing services during the state of emergency.

We encourage you to access these materials and reach out to your county's EI program consultant if you have additional questions.

## ***SUPPORTING FAMILIES***

During this state of emergency, EI providers have an important role in supporting families. Throughout this time, DODD asks all EI service coordinators to check in with each family on their caseload every two weeks, or more often if necessary.

There are many resources that can be shared with families related to the pandemic.

Children's emotional well-being during the pandemic is of great importance. This resource provides background information and resources to support children's emotional health:

<https://www.childtrends.org/publications/resources-for-supporting-childrens-emotional-well-being-during-the-covid-19-pandemic>

The Ohio Department of Health has many resource available to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 as well as resources aimed at families and children:

<https://coronavirus.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/covid-19/home/Family-Activities/Resources-for-Parents-and-Families>

Some resource-based service coordination may include supporting a parent or caregiver who is now unemployed. Changes have been made to Ohio's unemployment insurance benefits due to COVID-19. You can learn more here:

<http://jfs.ohio.gov/ouio/CoronavirusAndUI.stm>

## ***TECHNOLOGY RESOURCES***

### *Online Resources*

There are many online resources available to support EI teams in using technology to serve families. The Early Childhood Technical Assistance (ECTA) center has compiled information about the effectiveness of technology in EI, information about privacy concerns, and guidance from three states. You can access this information here:

<https://ectacenter.org/topics/disaster/tele-intervention.asp>

Colorado has a video with practical tips for providing Early Intervention services through technology:

<https://youtu.be/qG73FCcoGOw>

### *Technical Assistance Resources and Guidance*

- The Ohio Center for Autism and Low Incidence (OCALI) will be offering a special Doughnuts with Di on April 7 focused on engaging families in EI when using

videoconferencing to provide services. Registration information will be released in the coming weeks.

- DODD is working with the Ohio Association of County Boards (OACB), Project TREES, and some regional professionals to conduct a “train the trainer” training facilitated by Larry Edelman. He will train about 25 people about how best to use technology to provide EI services. This training will increase the competence and confidence of the individuals that our field turns to the most for questions and equip them to be a “go-to-person” for questions around using video conferencing for teaming, EI services, evaluations and assessments, and family support. The entire DODD EI staff will also participate in the training.
- During the week of March 23, DODD anticipates releasing guidance for how an EI team can complete an evaluation to determine eligibility for EI exclusively using technology.

## ***COMPLIANCE DURING THE STATE OF EMERGENCY***

DODD underscores that health and safety concerns and compliance with any order of the governor must outweigh concerns about meeting an EI timeline. To support counties, DODD provides the following guidance:

- Ensure your conversations with families are well-documented in case notes and supporting documentation (e.g., copies of e-mails and text messages from families) is present in the child’ EI record. This is especially important during this time when we have waived some rules and there is increased flexibility.
- DODD has added a special “COVID-19 system referral” noncompliance reason (NCR) to the EI Data System (EIDS). Please use this NCR when you have missed a timeline due to the state of emergency or COVID-19 pandemic (e.g., your agency is closed, staff members are ill or quarantined, etc.). If a family reason is why a timeline is missed, *even if that reason is related to the state of emergency or pandemic (e.g., the child is sick, the family wants to practice social distancing, the family is in quarantine, etc.)*, use the appropriate family reason NCR, *not* the COVID-19 system referral. You can update NCRs previously entered in EIDS as needed.

## ***TRAINING AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT UPDATES***

### *Online Training Reschedules*

The Advanced Reflective Supervision and Routines-Based Interview in-person trainings have been rescheduled to virtual trainings.

### **Advanced Reflective Supervision**

The live webinar will be held on the date/time of the original in-person session, March 30 from 8:30am-4:30pm.

*Registration is being offered only to those registered for the in-person session. If you were registered, you will not be automatically registered for the webinars. Below is the information to register on Zoom.*

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://pitt.zoom.us/j/868982064>

Meeting ID: 868 982 064

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,868982064# US (Chicago)

+16465588656,,868982064# US (New York)

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 868 982 064

Find your local number: <https://pitt.zoom.us/u/aepC6fZ3NZ>

Join by SIP

[868982064@zoomcrc.com](mailto:868982064@zoomcrc.com)

Join by H.323

162.255.37.11 (US West)

162.255.36.11 (US East)

Meeting ID: 868 982 064

### **Routines-Based Interview**

This will be a three-part webinar series, and you must complete all three parts to be trained on the RBI.

- Part 1: Engaging Families/the Ecomap
- Part 2: Completing the RBI
- Part 3: Child Assessment and Development of Functional IFSP Outcomes

The webinars will be held on the dates originally set for the in-person sessions: April 8, 14 and 15. We are offering a morning and afternoon option for each of the three parts.

*Do **not** register for both a morning and afternoon session; the content is the same so please choose morning **or** afternoon.*

- Part 1: Engaging Families/the Ecomap
- Apr 8 10:00-11:30 am <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6841784077095302412>
- Apr 8 2:00-3:30 pm <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7068492379734141452>

- Part 2: Completing the RBI
- Apr 14 10:00-11:30 am <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/6944789624920274700>
- Apr 14 2:00-3:30 pm <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8032716798293760268>

- Part 3: Child Assessment and Development of Functional IFSP Outcomes
- Apr 15 10:00-11:30 am <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7213951170911481100>
- Apr 15 2:00-3:30 pm <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7965148510232074764>

*Registration is offered only to those registered and/or were on the waiting list for an in-person session.*

If you were registered (or on the waiting list), you will not be automatically registered for the webinars. You will need to register via GoToWebinar using the links above.

If you have questions, please contact Lori Myers at [lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov](mailto:lori.e.myers@dodd.ohio.gov).