



The Early Development Network Co-Leads have provided answers to frequently asked questions during COVID-19. The following questions/answers relate to consideration of resuming home visits. Please contact the Co-leads with additional questions as they arise.

**As local EDN teams review their community data, discussions may now be occurring regarding when/if to resume home visits/face to face service delivery. Are there any expectations or guidance from NDE and DHHS in developing next steps?**

- Local EDN teams/school districts will need to consult with their local Public Health Department to determine when/if it is safe to resume home visits/Face to Face service delivery and protocols to follow when they do. When district/ESU/SC agency administration deem it is safe to resume home visits, then IFSP teams should contact families on their caseload and offer to resume home visits. If the family prefers to continue virtual service delivery for the health and safety of their family members, the SC will need to document this in the CONNECT narrative. Additionally, if it is determined that home visits will be resumed, but an individual provider/SC has an underlying health condition or is ill, and does not feel it is safe to resume home visits, then this individual must consult with their administration in order to make individualized decisions based upon the health/safety of each employee.

If the family chooses to accept the home visit service delivery, and if needed, the SC can update the IFSP service page noting that the "location" for each service is "Home" and enter the date that the home visit is scheduled for in the "start" line. An IFSP meeting is not required to make these changes to the IFSP in order to resume home visits. It is acceptable for the SC to update the service page as noted above and send a copy to the family/team members.

**Can each district make individual decisions on whether or not to resume face to face service delivery?**

- Yes – each district and SC agency administration must consult with the local public health department and determine when it is safe to resume home visits/Face to Face service delivery, adhering to protocols the local public health department recommends.

**Can a provider or SC decide for him/herself if they are comfortable going into homes?**

- No – this is a district/SC agency administration decision. However, if a provider/SC has an underlying health condition or is ill then the provider/SC must consult with their administration in order to make individualized decisions based upon the health and safety of each employee.

**May we use a set of screener questions prior to entering the home, similar to what is being used in medical offices or clinics (are you ill, is anyone in your home ill, do you know anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID the last 2 weeks)?**

- It is permissible to utilize screening questions to determine health and safety of children/families/caregivers prior to resuming face to face visits. We recommend you consult with your local public health department for assistance with this.

**Is DHHS waiving the “every other month” in person visit for services coordination if families or the SC is not comfortable with a face to face visit?**

- DHHS will not waive the “every other month” in person visit requirement for services coordination if and when a district/ESU/SC agency, in consultation with their local public health department and adhering to protocols recommended thereby, decides to resume home visits/F-F contact. If a SC has an underlying health condition or is ill, then the SC must consult with their administration in order to make an individualized decision based upon the health and safety of each employee.

**If the district offices remained open and IFSP services continued to be provided during the COVID-19 outbreak, but those services could not be provided in a particular location as stated within the IFSP (such as the child’s home), and instead were provided through alternate means, such as consultative service to the parent; what next steps should IFSP teams take once home visits are resumed?**

- Per the OSEP guidance, a district could provide IFSP services in an alternate location, or through alternate means, such as consultative service to the parent, during the COVID-19 outbreak. However, once services are fully resumed, the services coordinator and EIS providers for each child must assess the child to determine if the child’s service needs have changed and to determine whether the IFSP Team needs to meet to review the child’s IFSP to identify whether changes to the IFSP are needed. If it is determined that the IFSP team needs to meet and review potential changes to the IFSP in order to address the child’s developmental needs, then an IFSP meeting must be scheduled and held in order to make necessary changes to the IFSP.