



The Early Development Network Co-Leads are informing districts, PRT's, and Services Coordination agencies of the requirement to return to in person delivery for all children/families, **effective immediately**, for all EDN service components (including intakes, evaluations, assessments, meetings, and service delivery). This is based upon the following factors:

- the State of Nebraska has no current Directed Health Measures in place;
- the Governor has rescinded Coronavirus related Executive Orders effective June 1, 2021;
- Federal requirements for the provision of virtual service delivery is only allowable in response to emergency public health/directed health measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is recommended that districts, PRT's and SC agencies should first consult with the local public health department to ensure individual counties/regions are free from any restrictions and to ensure compliance with any local directives, should they exist. Please contact the Co-leads with additional questions as they arise.

Can a parent still opt to receive virtual services based on the child's fragile/serious medical condition?

No, all EDN service components must be provided in person for all children and families. Families can choose to receive in-person EDN service delivery, since this is the typical and regulatory mode of EI service delivery; or a family can choose to close their case and make a referral when they are ready to resume EDN services.

What happens if there is an outbreak of COVID-19 cases in a local area?

- Districts, PRT's, and Services Coordination agencies should monitor State and local Public Health Department responses and Directed Health Measures in their local region due to the COVID-19 pandemic to determine if it is safe to provide in person home visits. It is recommended the EDN program consult with their local Public Health Department in this circumstance to determine if a change in service delivery method is warranted due to a COVID-19 outbreak. The federal guidance only allows a change in service delivery method due to a COVID-19 outbreak and in response to Directed Health Measures.

Are there safety protocols that agencies can choose to implement?

- Districts, PRT's, and Services Coordination agencies can choose to implement safety protocols in consultation with their local public health department for guidance on appropriate safety protocols. It continues to be permissible to utilize screening questions to determine health and safety of children/families/caregivers prior to attending face-to-face visits.

Please review and ensure compliance with the following regulatory requirements related to resumption of in-person service delivery:

➤ March 2020 OSEP Q/A on Providing Services during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 Outbreak: <http://edn.ne.gov/cms/sites/default/files/u26/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>
Question B-2:

“Once services are fully resumed, the service 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”. Additionally, IFSP teams will need to determine whether compensatory services are needed to address lack of service provision or lack of effectiveness of virtual service delivery towards the child’s developmental progress during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

➤ December 2020 Additional Co-Lead Guidance regarding IFSP Meetings and Part C Service Provision (Prior Written Notice):
http://edn.ne.gov/cms/sites/default/files/u26/EDN%20COVID%20Guidance_Dec.2020_Final.pdf

“Once the IFSP team determines the IFSP services are able to once again be provided via face to face in the natural environment, then the district and the services coordinator must each provide another PWN to the parent(s) as soon as possible informing of the resumption of face-to-face service delivery in the natural environment for each service. Again, Form HHS-6, Notice of Action, can be used by the services coordinator to fulfill the PWN requirements for the service of services coordination.”