



NEW YORK CITY DEPARTMENT OF

HEALTH AND MENTAL HYGIENE

Oxiris Barbot, MD

Commissioner

Daniel H. Stephens, MD
Deputy Commissioner
Family and Child Health

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Bureau of Early Intervention
Division of Family and
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March 25, 2020

Dear Early Intervention Provider,

The New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DOHMH), Division of Family and Child Health, Bureau of Early Intervention (BEI) continues its commitment to families and the provider community during the progression of the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. In accordance with New York State Department of Health COVID-19 Guidance of March 18, 2020, during the declared state of emergency, reimbursement will be available for individual teletherapy Early Intervention services provided in accordance with the child's Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) and for authorized evaluations.

Currently, COVID-19 is widespread and increasing in New York City, and according to the Centers for Disease Control and the DOHMH, COVID-19 can spread among people who are in close contact. Furthermore, people with regular close contact with someone who has or could have COVID-19 are at higher risk. This includes persons who live in the same home or who may be entering the home routinely like Early Intervention service providers.

<https://www1.nyc.gov/assets/doh/downloads/pdf/imm/coronavirus-factsheet.pdf>

Therefore, in order to limit community transmission of COVID-19 and effectively implement the Governor's "New York State on Pause" executive order, as of **Friday, March 27, 2020, Early Intervention services can ONLY be provided using teletherapy at this time.** Please note that Early Intervention services can still be provided in childcare settings. While Early Intervention is considered an essential service under the Governor's executive order, social distancing must still be practiced, which is best facilitated with the use of teletherapy. This mandate will serve to protect Early Intervention therapists, families and the children whom we serve.

Please refer to the guidance issued on March 18, 2020 (attached here) on the delivery of Early Intervention services and evaluations utilizing teletherapy.

Families may be eligible to receive a free at-home wi-fi service to support their child's remote learning. Comcast is now offering free internet service for low-income families for 60 days for new qualifying customers. Families can visit <https://www.internetessentials.com/> for more information. For your families who also have older children, households with K-12 students can get free Spectrum Wi-fi for 60 days (including free installation for new customers). Call 1-844-488-8395 for set up.

The Bureau would like to thank Early Intervention providers and staff for their ongoing commitment to the Early Intervention Program during this challenging time.

Please direct any questions regarding this guidance to EITA@health.nyc.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel H. Stephens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Daniel H. Stephens, MD