

**Department of Health
Early Intervention Section**

**EIS Guidelines for In-Person Visits
March 26, 2022**

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this document is to provide guidelines for early intervention (EI) services that aligns with the [State and Local Counties](#), as well as the [Department of Health \(DOH\), Disease Outbreak Control Division \(DOCD\) School Guidance](#) which includes Early Care and Education/Child Care Programs.

The goals are to:

- prevent the spread of COVID-19.
- protect the health of children, families, and EI providers.
- partner with families around their children’s growth and development.
- support service providers in the delivery of early intervention services.

HOW WILL EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICES BE PROVIDED?

EI services may be provided in-person, telepractice, or blended (i.e., combination of in-person and telepractice). The service delivery method (e.g., in-person, telepractice, or blended) is based on a discussion with the family on how services will be provided to support the family with meeting the needs of their child. The service delivery method discussion with the family must include but is not limited to the child’s progress, family’s questions, and the supports the family needs to support the child’s development.

The service delivery method may be discussed at any time. It will be discussed at every Individualized Family Support Plan (IFSP) meeting. The team which includes the family decides on the service delivery method and documents in the IFSP meeting notes page the team’s discussion. At least once a quarter between IFSP meetings or may be sooner, the Care Coordinator will discuss the child’s progress and reviews the EI Service Delivery Questionnaire. Other times that the service delivery method may be discussed is at the Family Support Team (FST) meeting which the family is invited to attend, during sessions with the family, or any time the team which includes the family feels a discussion is needed.

COMMUNICATION WITH FAMILY

1. EI service options and guidelines may change at any time based on new information from Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the State, local County, and Department of Health, Disease Outbreak Control Division.
2. Families will be informed when changes are made to EI services.
3. All families enrolled in EI services will be provided this guideline document.
4. This guideline document will be posted on the Early Intervention Section website.

IN-PERSON VISITS

The DOH, DOCD states “Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on January 13, 2022, emphasizes that implementing layered prevention strategies (e.g., using multiple mitigation strategies together consistently) can reduce transmission of SARS-CoV-2.” The DOH identified the following mitigation strategies: vaccination, stay home when sick, correct and consistent masking in-doors, hand hygiene, improving ventilation, physical distancing, screening testing, and cleaning and disinfecting.

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During any in-person visit, the following mitigation strategies will be applied:

1. Family or provider(s) may choose to wear a mask during the in-person visit.
2. If the family or provider is sick the in-person visit will be cancelled. If the in-person visit is cancelled, the provider and family will work together to either reschedule the in-person visit or use telepractice for the cancelled session.
3. If a family member or provider appears to be sick or becomes ill during the session, the in-person visit will end. The family and provider will work together to reschedule the visit via in-person or telepractice.
4. When an in-person visit is cancelled, rescheduled, or provide via telepractice due to illness, resume in-person visits according to guidance related to COVID as applicable (see resource bullet #6 below) and/or when there are no symptoms.
5. Practice hand hygiene. Wash hands often using soap and water or hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. As the family is comfortable, include their child in hand hygiene during the visit.
6. Maintain physical distance of 6 feet (approximately 2 arm's length), to the extent possible.
7. Minimize the number of family members and providers gathered for the in-person visit.
8. To the extent possible, meet in a ventilated area (e.g., home with windows open or outside location) that supports the purpose of the visit.
9. Clean and disinfect items.

RESOURCES FOR FAMILIES AND PROVIDERS

- How to Protect Yourself and Others
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>
- Department of Health, Division on Disease Outbreak Control Division, Guidance for Schools
[Disease Outbreak Control Division | COVID-19 | Guidance for Schools \(hawaii.gov\)](#)
- Department of Health, Guidance Documents
[Guidance Documents - Hawai'i DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 \(hawaiicovid19.com\)](#)
- Guidance for Wearing Masks
[Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#)
- COVID-19 Protective Handwashing
https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Fact-Sheet-Hand-Washing_031820.pdf
- Summary Guidance for COVID-19 Cases and Contacts – 01.31.22 (Please note this document is often updated)
<https://hawaiicovid19.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Summary-Guidance-for-COVID-19-Cases-and-Contacts.pdf>
- COVID-19 Resources in Various Languages
[Translations - Hawai'i DOH: Info & Resources for Managing COVID-19 \(hawaiicovid19.com\)](#)