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**To:** NYEIS-L@listserv.health.state.ny.us
**Subject:** **Requirements for Delivering In-Person Early Intervention Services - May 19, 2021**
**Reply-To:** beipub@health.ny.gov

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**New York State Department of Health
New York Early Intervention System (NYEIS) Electronic Mailing List
Requirements for Delivering In-Person Early Intervention Services - May 19, 2021**

Dear EI Colleagues:

This is in response to inquiries about use of masks during delivery of in-person Early Intervention (EI) services following recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). At this time, EI services continue to be provided via teletherapy and/or in person to the maximum extent possible, based on the child and family’s individualized family service plan (IFSP).

Until further guidance is released by the New York State Department of Health Bureau of Early Intervention (Department), early intervention providers must continue to follow existing Department guidance, which requires mask wearing when delivering in-person early intervention services.  For the purposes of providing EI services, mask wearing continues to be required regardless of vaccination status or location of the service (e.g., outdoors).

When in-person early intervention services are delivered, all additional applicable guidance and precautions related to COVID-19 must continue to be followed. This guidance includes the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), attempting to maintain a physical distance of 6 feet in the home whenever possible, and good hand hygiene by the provider.

Please refer to the Department guidance document: Home and Community-Based Services Regarding COVID-19, for additional information on rendering in-person early intervention services: <https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/docs/doh_covid19_homecare_services_update.pdf>

Please note, Early Intervention Programs (EIPs) are administered locally by the county/municipality in which the child and family reside. As the guidance indicates, the Local Health Department (LHD) may impose more stringent guidelines for the operation of the local EIP. If you have questions about how services are being delivered in your municipality, please contact your local EIP for additional guidance.

All current COVID-19 guidance for the EIP is available on the BEI webpage: <https://www.health.ny.gov/community/infants_children/early_intervention/memoranda.htm>.

Additionally, all revised guidance will be disseminated to stakeholders via the BEI listserv.

If you have questions or need further information, please contact the Bureau of Early Intervention at beipub@health.ny.gov.

Please do not reply to this e-mail announcement.

Thank You.