**Recommendations for resuming EI/CPSE Home Visits during the COVID-19 Pandemic**

**Before home visits resume, it is recommended that you update your Health and Safety policy to include universal precautions related to COVID-19. The following are some suggestions from the County that may be included in your policy.**

1. Contact Family (e.g. by telephone, email, text) prior to the home visit and inquire about the following:

* Signs or symptoms of a respiratory infection, such as fever (subjective or confirmed >100.0 degrees F), cough, sore throat, or shortness of breath of anyone in the home.
* Contact, within the last 14 days, with someone with or under the investigation for COVID-19 (quarantine or isolation), or ill with respiratory illness for anyone in the home.
* Anyone awaiting results of COVID-19 testing within the home.
* Consider risk to household members; those who have weakened immune systems, over the age of 60, have chronic health conditions (e.g. heart disease, lung disease, diabetes), or other COVID-19 risk factors.

2. Take precautions prior to a visit:

* Provide the family with resources to protect themselves against the spread of COVID-19 and other illnesses.
* Ask the family if the visit can be conducted outside.
* If the visit cannot be conducted outside, ask to conduct the session by an open window for increased ventilation.
* Take your temperature prior to each work day and keep for your records.
* Take a survey of your own signs and symptoms each day and keep for your records.
* Ask the family to sanitize the space you will use for the visit just prior to your arrival.

3. Take precautions while at a visit and immediately after a visit:

* Require that only one parent/guardian participate in the session with no other family members in the same room or outdoor space.
* Request parent and child to wash hands (in your presence) prior to the start of the visit.
* Sanitize the space you will be using in the home/outside prior to beginning your session with a 10% bleach solution or disinfecting wipes.
* Maintain a distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and the child/family member.
* Minimize physical contact with the child and frequently touched surface in the home.
* Have the child use toys that are within the home when possible. Per BEI, providers cannot bring in any toys until BEI allows.
* Use cloth face coverings to prevent asymptomatic spread of the disease and provide protection when social distancing measures are difficult to maintain. Change mask between visits.
* Request that family members wear face coverings as well.
* Wash hands prior to and after each home visit with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
* Use a hand sanitizer that contains 60 or 70% alcohol if soap and water are not available.
* Avoid touching eyes, nose, and mouth.
* Exit the home immediately if any person is found to be ill within the home.
* If you feel ill during the day, immediately return home, monitor symptoms, and contact your supervisor or local health department.

4. Take precautions after visit:

* Sanitize the handles and inside of your car at the start of each day, at the conclusion of each day, and in between visits when possible.
* Sanitize any toys and materials as needed and store in an open area with plenty of air flow.

5. Practitioners should also consider the following:

* Establishing communication and notification protocols if he/she tests positive for COVID-19.
* Identifying strategies to offer home visits to all children and families.
* Prioritizing in-person service delivery by identified groups of children and families (*e.g.*, geography, underserved families, families without stable internet, medically fragile children, children who are deaf and hard of hearing, children with diagnostic evaluation needs or assistive technology needs).
* Identifying if hybrid service delivery (i.e., combination of remote and in-person services) will be available for individual families or groups of families based on their needs and preferences
* Developing contingency plan if incidence of COVID-19 increases

**NOTE: This continues to be a rapidly evolving situation. It is the Provider responsibility to follow all New York State Department of Health guidelines, any New York State Education Department guidelines, and those of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).**