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STATE OF CONNECTICUT

OFFICE OF EARLY CHILDHOOD



Connecticut Office of
Early Childhood

Beth Bye
Commissioner

DATE: March 16, 2020

TO: Providers of Services to Young Children

FROM: Beth Bye, Commissioner

RE: Coronavirus Memo #5
OEC Fiscal and Home Visit Guidance for Birth to Three and Home Visiting
Providers Related to COVID-19/ Corona Virus

The Office of Early Childhood wishes to provide guidance to our funded Birth to Three and Home Visiting providers to ensure stability of programs during this very challenging COVID-19 situation. We realize that consistent and accurate information is of utmost importance.

Home Visiting: The OEC will continue funding all Home Visiting providers through quarterly payments. Programs that have not yet been paid for the fourth quarter of FY 20 should expect their payments imminently.

Birth to Three: Effective March 16, 2020 Birth to Three Programs may start providing Interim Remote Early Intervention (EI) as described in the attached documents. Once the data systems are ready to bill commercial insurance and Medicaid using a new telehealth modifier the full Remote EI procedure available at <https://www.birth23.org/providers/provider-resources/procedures/> will go into effect.

Home Visit Guidance:

Prior to scheduling an in-home service, we are asking all of our OEC providers to conduct a brief verbal screening (to be answered for any client or family member residing in the home) asking the following three questions:

1. Have you traveled to a country for which the CDC has issued a Level 2 or 3 travel designation within the last 14 days?
2. Have you had contact with any persons under investigation for COVID-19 within the last 14 days, or with anyone known to have COVID-19?

3. Do you have any symptoms of a respiratory infection (e.g. cough, sore throat, fever or shortness of breath)?

If the answer is yes to any of these questions, offer the family a remote home visit. Please follow the guidelines for remote home visits provided by Birth to Three or your evidence-based home visiting model.

Should your agency make the decision to temporarily stop home visits due to the spread of COVID-19, please consider staying connected to families through virtual home visits. Your presence and support during this time can serve as a critical lifeline. While we do understand the limitations of virtual visits, maintaining contact through even a phone call, can bring a sense of reassurance to families feeling isolated and afraid. Your work is so important and so appreciated by all of us.

As always, please encourage all staff to continue to implement good public health practices to prevent the spread of respiratory viruses. These practices include frequent handwashing, covering their mouth with their sleeve or a tissue when coughing or sneezing, avoiding touching their eyes, nose or mouth with their hands and most importantly staying home when they are sick. . The CDC website includes links to tip sheets, posters on handwashing, and tips for families in its [Interim Guidance for Administrators of US ChildCare Programs and K-12 Schools to Plan, Prepare, and Respond to Coronavirus Disease](#). All CDC guidance is updated as necessary to respond to this changing situation.

Thank you for your continued efforts to protect the health and safety of Connecticut's children.