



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF

EDUCATION

STRONG START DC EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM (DC EIP)

IN-PERSON SERVICES DURING COVID-19 GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS

(Effective June 14, 2021)

This document is based on guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the District of Columbia Department of Health (DC Health).

Due to the current public health emergency, OSSE, the Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program (DC EIP) and its contractors are encouraged to primarily perform duties and services remotely. However, families are given the option of resuming in-person visits at their request.

1. Visit planning

During stage 2 of the Strong Start reopening plan, families will be given the option of resuming in-person visits or continuing with visits delivered via telehealth on the current authorizations. In-person visits may resume as determined by the comfort level of the family. Families should speak with their early interventionist(s) to discuss the appropriate time to restart in-person visits and both early interventionists and families will need to adhere to all protocols included on these guidelines.

- A family may request some or all their in-person visits to resume. However, if the early interventionist is unable to participate in in-home in-person visits, then the Service Coordinator will discuss the available options with the family, such as meeting in alternate locations, continuing with telehealth or the assignment of a different early interventionist who is currently available for in-home in-person visits.
- If the family requests in-person visits to resume in a child care center or other community setting, the early interventionist must follow OSSE's Health and Safety Guidance for Child Care Providers and determine the specific requirements of the community setting or child care center.
- Provider vaccination status is confidential medical information and will not be required nor revealed by Strong Start. Families are not required to disclose vaccination status to receive in-person services. Early interventionists shall not ask vaccination status of the family. While providing services, people who are vaccinated must still wear a face covering and use physical distancing when interacting with others.
- It is strongly recommended that only one member of the Strong Start Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) team is present during the in-person visit and the rest of the team should participate via telehealth (if applicable). Multiple members of the IFSP team are permitted as long as there is enough space to maintain physical distancing between household members and IFSP team members.
- A maximum of two adults from the same household may accompany the child for the visit or be present in an indoor or outdoor visit.

- High-risk individuals: Families with children who are at increased risk of experiencing severe illness due to COVID-19 are recommended to consult with their medical provider before participating in in-person visits.

2. Visit procedures

Early interventionists must obtain written informed consent from parent/guardian and review with them the “In-person Early Intervention Services during COVID-19 Guidelines for Parents” document prior to resuming in-person visits.

A. Prior to in-person visit

- Early interventionists shall perform a daily health screening for all persons that will be present during the visit. This includes the child, parent/caregiver and any member of the household.
- The screening must be performed not earlier than the morning of the visit or prior to arrival to the home.
- After completing the health screen tool, if it is determined that the in-person visit should not occur, the early interventionist shall reschedule the visit or offer the family a virtual visit.
- Parent/guardian must reschedule any in-person appointment if anyone in the home experiences symptoms of COVID-19 before the appointment.
- Individuals who are under quarantine (for example due to exposure to a close contact), isolation, or have a test result pending also must not participate in in-person visits.

B. During the in-person visit

- Hand hygiene must be completed at the beginning and end of each session, and periodically as needed. Washing hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60 percent alcohol.
- All participants (including all children age 2 and older), must wear a face covering throughout the visit (including outdoors), except when eating or drinking. If an adult has a contraindication to wearing a face covering, either medical or otherwise, then it is recommended that the individual should not participate in the visit.
 - Exceptions are allowable for young children taking developmental factors into account. Parents should consult with the child’s health care provider if necessary, to determine if an individual child is able to wear a mask safely during a visit.
 - For more information about non-medical face coverings or face masks, please refer to the *Guidance about Masks and Other Face Coverings for the General Public* on coronavirus.dc.gov/healthguidance
- Family and early interventionist(s) should maintain six (6) feet of distance to the greatest extent possible. It is highly recommended that early interventionists seek opportunities to work with family outdoors in the child’s natural environment if that is an option.
- If the child or any family member displays any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 or does not follow the safety recommendations on this guidance, the early interventionist has discretion to continue, postpone the visit or offer the family services via telehealth.



Informed Consent for In-Person Early Intervention Services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency

Child Information	
Name of child	Date of birth (mm/dd/yyyy)
Early Intervention Service Type	
This consent is to be used for one (1) service type. Please complete additional consents for each service type.	
<input type="checkbox"/> Service Coordination	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment
<input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing IFSP Service: _____	
Reason for Notice	
The Strong Start DC Early Intervention Program (DC EIP) will resume in-person early intervention services during the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.	
Acknowledgement	
<input type="checkbox"/> I acknowledge the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. I understand that my child and family may request to receive early intervention (EI) services in person. 2. I have been given the option to continue services via telehealth during the COVID-19 public health emergency. 3. I understand that I can at any time request to resume services via telehealth at any time until the expiration of the COVID-19 public health emergency. 4. I acknowledge the serious nature of COVID-19 and I understand the risks that may result from in-person visits. 5. I have read the "In-person Early Intervention Services during COVID-19 Guidelines for Parents" and understand that I must take the outlined precautions. I further understand DC EIP may cancel in-person services if any person, who I have participate as an early intervention participant, fails to adhere to these precautions during an in-person visit. If DC EIP cancels in-person services, my family will receive services via telehealth. 6. I understand that vaccination for COVID-19 is optional. The vaccination status of early intervention providers and service coordinator is confidential medical information and cannot not be disclosed by DC EIP. Families are not required to disclose vaccination status in order to receive in-person services. 7. I understand that if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 cases or if other health and safety concerns arise, DC EIP may transition the provision of services and service coordination via telehealth only. 	
Statement of Consent	
<input type="checkbox"/> I consent to receiving in-person early intervention services. <input type="checkbox"/> I do not consent to receiving in-person early intervention services. I agree to have services via telehealth, or to place my child's early intervention services on hold. I understand that I will not receive make-up sessions for the period that my child's IFSP service(s) are placed on hold.	
Name of parent/guardian	Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
Signature of parent/guardian	