

Joe Lombardo  
Governor

Richard Whitley, MS  
Director



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES DIVISION  
*Helping people. It's who we are and what we do.*



Dena Schmidt  
Administrator

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**March 20, 2023**

### **Aging and Disability Services Division - Early Intervention Services Full Re-Entry Plan**

The following Early Intervention Services (EI) full re-entry plan is meant for all EI providers across the State of Nevada. Face-to-face services in the natural environment should be utilized as much as possible based on universal health screenings and family preference.

#### **Protocol for Face-to-Face Encounters during Full Re-Entry:**

- Masks are no longer required unless the family has requested that staff wear a mask or if staff choose to wear a mask.
- PPE will remain available upon request.
- During the scheduling of each visit, the parent/caregiver will be screened with a series of questions pertaining to ALL members of the household (see attachment "Scheduling Script"). Screenings will be completed by designated and trained staff.
- No restrictions on the number of participants during visits; as space allows
- Everyone will use proper handwashing and/or sanitizing upon entering and exiting the clinic
- At the end of each visit, the clinician will be expected to disinfect shared materials and surfaces
- At the end of each day, shared spaces will be expected to be disinfected

#### **Suggestions for mitigation as we fully re-enter:**

- Provider may ask permission to wash hands or using sanitizer when entering and prior to leaving a home
- During oral/feeding assessments and visits, the use of gloves is strongly recommended
- Do not bring in unnecessary items or bags into a family's home
- If using balloons or bubbles, have parent/caregiver participate in the activity by blowing the bubbles or balloons
- Staff who are sick and fail the universal health screener should stay home from work until symptoms have improved; please use CDC guidelines for both families and providers

Special consideration needs to be taken for those children and families that fall into a high-risk category for developing severe illness. If a child or their family member(s) are high-risk, an option of telehealth as a delivery method of services may be requested by the family until it is deemed safe to see them in person. If an employee does not pass the universal health screener, telehealth may be offered to the family. The family is able to decline the telehealth option until a face-to-face option is available again.

All EI employees will be required to self-screen using the universal health screening and if they fail, turn in a copy to their supervisor.

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March 20, 2023

Dear families,

We want to share with you our continued efforts to ensure the health and safety of your family, your child and our staff as we move forward in a post-pandemic era. In March 2020, Nevada Early Intervention Services (NEIS) responded to the state-of-emergency at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic with a level of restrictions based on infection spread. Throughout the past three years, we have gradually phased into a return to face-to-face visits with health protocols and procedures as conditions in Nevada improved. NEIS physicians have carefully monitored infection numbers, hospitalizations, vaccination rates statewide and federal/state/county/municipal guidelines to make the safest and most data-based decisions to protect all involved in the delivery of early intervention services.

Based on the most current information we have available, while vaccination rates amongst the birth to three population have not increased significantly, the rates of COVID-19, influenza, and RSV across Nevada have significantly decreased along with hospitalizations. Additionally, neighboring states have begun to lift masking requirements in health care facilities. As such, beginning March 20, 2023, NEIS will lift the masking requirements with the exception that should you request a provider to wear a mask or other personal protective equipment (PPE) in your home or during your child's early intervention visit, they must honor your request. Additionally, we ask that if a provider or staff choose to wear a mask or PPE during your child's early intervention visit or in your home due to their own personal preference, that their decision also be respected.

We will continue to use a universal health screening prior to each visit to determine if an option to reschedule to telehealth method or reschedule face-to-face visit when symptoms have improved, when appropriate. We ask that if you or your child are feeling ill prior to a scheduled early intervention visit, to please contact your service coordinator immediately for rescheduling options. NEIS is requiring the same for our staff; if a provider is feeling ill, they are required to notify you immediately for rescheduling options. Together, with proper hygiene efforts and screenings, we can minimize the spread of disease and infection during early intervention visits.

Please reach out to your service coordinator if you have any questions. Be safe and healthy!

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Marzo 20, 2023

Queridas familias,

Queremos compartir con usted nuestros esfuerzos continuos para asegurarnos de la salud y seguridad de su familia, su hijo/a y nuestro personal a medida que avanzamos en una era posterior de la pandemia. En marzo 2020 los Servicios de Intervención Temprana de Nevada (NEIS) respondió al estado de emergencia al comienzo de la pandemia del COVID-19 con un nivel de restricciones basadas en la propagación de la infección.

Durante los últimos tres años, hemos regresado gradualmente a las visitas en persona con protocolos y procedimientos de salud ya que han mejorado las condiciones en Nevada. Los médicos de NEIS han monitoreado cuidadosamente las cifras de infección, hospitalizaciones, tasas de vacunación en todo el estado y directrices federales/estatales/condados/municipales, para tomar las decisiones más seguras y basadas en datos para proteger a todos involucrados en la prestación de servicios de intervención temprana.

Basado en la información más actual que tenemos disponible, aunque las tasas de vacunación entre los niños recién nacidos hasta los tres años no han aumentado significativamente, las tasas de COVID-19, resfriado y RSV en Nevada, han disminuido significativamente junto con las hospitalizaciones.

Adicionalmente, los estados vecinos han comenzado a levantar el requerimiento de usar mascarilla en los centros de atención de salud. Como tal, NEIS levantará el requerimiento de usar mascarilla empezando el 20 de marzo 2023, con la excepción si usted prefiere que su proveedor use su mascarilla u otro equipo de protección personal (PPE) cuando van a su casa o durante la visita de intervención temprana ellos deben de respetar su petición. Adicionalmente hemos pedido que si un proveedor o personal elije usar una mascarilla o PPE durante la visita de intervención temprana en su casa, esa decisión también debe de ser respetada.

Continuaremos utilizando un examen de salud universal antes de cada visita para determinar si una opción de reprogramar al método de telehealth o reprogramar la visita en persona cuando los síntomas hayan mejorado, cuando sea apropiado. Estamos pidiéndole que si usted o su niño están enfermos antes de una visita programada con intervención temprana, por favor contacte a su coordinadora del servicio inmediatamente para opciones de reprogramar. NEIS le está pidiendo lo mismo a nuestro personal, si un proveedor está enfermo están obligados a notificarle inmediatamente para opciones de reprogramar. Juntos con los esfuerzos de higiene y pruebas de detección adecuadas podemos minimizar la propagación de enfermedades e infecciones durante las visitas de intervención temprana.

Por favor si tiene preguntas póngase en contacto con su coordinadora del servicio. Este seguro y saludable!