

### **Early Intervention Home Visiting Safety Protocol**

As of June 3, 2021, the Oregon Department of Education EI/ECSE program confirmed their support of the inclusion of in-person home visiting for home visitors who are fully vaccinated (2 weeks after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna or the one dose of Johnson and Johnson) but still recommend the use of a mask because both sectors of education and health still require use of masks, even when fully vaccinated. The decision on delivery method of the home visit remains a local decision, based on conditions and workplace guidance.

- **South Coast ESD Early Intervention program will be reinstating home visiting as a service option as of July 1, 2021, using these guidelines in both Coos and Curry County during each home visit:**
  - **Whenever possible, the home visit should occur in an outdoor location, which can be at the child's home, such as a yard, deck, patio, etc. or in a school playground or public park.**
  - **All parties must agree to the home visit. No family member nor home visitor shall be required, or made to feel required, to be face to face at this time.**
  - **SCESD EI Specialist or EI therapist will do a self-check health screen prior to entering the home or prior to the home visit appointment. SCESD EI Specialist or therapist will only proceed with the visit if they have no symptoms of COVID 19 and no direct exposure to someone with COVID 19.**
  - **SCESD EI Specialist or EI therapist will do an interview style health screening with the adults who will be participating in the home visit (parents, grandparents, care givers, etc.) prior to entering the home or prior to the home visit appointment. SCESD EI Specialist or therapist will only proceed with the home visit if they have no symptoms of COVID 19 and no direct exposure to someone with COVID 19.**
  - **During an indoor home visit, limit time together in an enclosed space to the time necessary to comply with the needs and services identified in IFSP.**
  - **Make sure that shared spaces in the home have good airflow (e.g., an air conditioner or an opened window, weather permitting).**
  - **All adults involved in the therapy session must always wear a face mask during the home visit whether the home visit occurs indoors or outdoors and regardless of if all parties have been fully vaccinated.**
    - **Ensure that EI Specialists or therapists wear a mask and place carefully to cover mouth and nose securely to minimize gaps between the face and the mask. While in use, avoid touching the mask.**

- Request that parents/adults in the home wear a mask while EI Specialists or therapists are in their home unless they have a medical condition that prevents use of a mask or face covering.
- All adults, prior to any hands-on therapy with the child, will wash hand with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (60–95% alcohol content), covering all surfaces of the hands and rubbing them together until dry. Soap and water should be used if hands are visibly dirty.
- Social Distancing of at least 3 feet shall be expected whenever possible between adults.
- EI Specialist or therapist will wear appropriate agreed upon PPE provided by SCESD in addition to the mandatory face covering (mask or shield) to mitigate any need for proximity to the child that is less than 3 ft. apart.
- Gowns may be worn by providers case specific to infants/toddlers who demonstrate atypical secretions (such as drooling) on a reoccurring basis using professional judgement. As per CDC guidelines: If there is potential that an EI staff member may be splashed or sprayed by bodily fluids, use standard PPE including face masks, eye protection, disposable gloves, and a gown.
- Upon ending the home visit, with permission of the parent, the EI staff member will assist in cleaning any surface that was utilized using SCESD provided disinfecting cleaner.

**In addition to the above procedures for safe home visiting, it is expected that:**

- EI Specialist or therapist will manage their own individual contact tracing log noting who they were in contact with during the home visit and the duration of the visit. These individual contact tracing logs will be turned in weekly to the department secretary so they
- Hand sanitizer and disposable face masks will be available to SCESD Early Intervention specialist or therapist and to the other adults in the home throughout the interaction.
- Any item, toy, manipulative used during the home visit will be placed in a container labelled “to be sanitized” prior to next session.