

ROY COOPER • Governor MANDY COHEN, MD, MPH • Secretary MARK T. BENTON • Assistant Secretary for Public Health Division of Public Health

Dear CDSA Families,

We hope this message finds you safe and well. We wanted to share news with you about how the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program is responding to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and plans to continue to support your family through this unsettling time.

We decided to stop face-to-face visits until at least March 30, 2020, and possibly longer. We took this step to protect your family, our staff, and providers. We want to do our best to make sure your family stays safe and healthy.

Although we are stopping face-to-face visits for now, we still plan on providing supports and helping you and your child with any needs you may have. We are looking at other options for providing the services on your IFSP. Your Early Intervention Service Coordinator (EISC) is still <u>available</u> and will use phone, email and other means to stay in contact with you. If you have any questions regarding your services, please contact your EISC at your local Children's Developmental Services Agency.

If your child is receiving services from a contract service provider (for example, physical therapy, speech-language therapy), you should be contacted by that provider about any changes. Many of our contract providers have already decided to put a hold on face-to-face services, and we support that decision. We always encourage you to tell your provider what works best for your family at any time.

We also plan to continue to provide helpful resources to help you and your family. To learn more about COVID-19 and how you can keep your family healthy and well, here are two useful links:

- CDC: (https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html) (US information)
- NC DHHS: (<u>https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/public-health/coronavirus-disease-2019-covid-19-response-north-carolina</u> (NC information)

We are learning new information everyday about how we can best respond to this situation. We will provide you with updates if anything else changes in the program. In the meantime, if you have any questions or need a helping hand, please reach out to your Early Intervention Service Coordinator. Remember, your child's best teacher is you! Together, we can help your child develop and learn, even during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Sharon E. Loza

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NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES • DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Early Intervention Branch

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