



## DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC SECURITY

*Your Partner For A Stronger Arizona*

Douglas A. Ducey  
Governor

Cara Christ, MD, MS  
Interim Director

March 20, 2020

«ParentName»  
«MailingAddress»  
«City»

Dear «ParentName»:

The Arizona Early Intervention Program (AzEIP) hopes that you and your loved ones are healthy and are managing the complex environment around coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). Your service providers within the early intervention system care deeply about your health and sympathize with any questions, uncertainty or concerns you may have. AzEIP wants to provide you with the most accurate resources regarding the current situation surrounding COVID-19. We are here to support you and your family. With school closures, cancelled activities that provide social support and positive experiences, and general uncertainty, we know this is likely affecting your family. Included in this letter is some information on your child and families alternative service delivery options within early intervention during this time, including your rights. Your health, safety and happiness are our number one priority.

### **What is COVID-19?**

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), COVID-19 is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Risk of infection with COVID-19 is higher for people who are close contacts of someone known to have COVID-19, for example healthcare workers, or household members. Other people at higher risk for infection are those who live in or have recently been in an area with ongoing spread of COVID-19.

The virus is thought to spread mainly between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets produced when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It also may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose, or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

COVID-19 presents as mild to severe respiratory illness, with symptoms of fever, cough, and shortness of breath or difficulty breathing.

### **Resources to find accurate information**

To access the most up-to-date and accurate information regarding COVID-19, we recommend visiting the following organizations websites:

- Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS)
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- World Health Organization (WHO)

### **How to protect yourself and your family**

According to the CDC and ADHS, by taking the following everyday precautions, you can help protect yourself and your family from contracting or spreading respiratory illness:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Stay home from work, school and public areas if you're sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.
- Avoid sharing dishes, glasses, bedding and other household items if you're sick.

### **Potential early intervention service delivery option changes**

As of the date of this letter, AzEIP has approved alternate service delivery methods and guidance under direction from the Office of Special Educational Programs and public health recommendations. This means that there are options for your child and family to still receive supports and services in other means which may not be in person. This can be discussed with your early intervention team. AzEIP remains dedicated to the health and wellbeing of your child and family as well as providing continuity of early intervention services during this time. We appreciate your flexibility and look forward to you working with your early intervention team to meet the needs of your family.

Additionally, if your child, you, or anyone in your house is sick, and you are still receiving in home services through AzEIP, please call your Service Coordinator, «ServiceCoordinator» at «SCPhone» to discuss services.

To track further changes in service delivery options, please visit the AzEIP website at: <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant>. You may also contact «Contractor» at «ContractorPhone» with any ongoing questions or concerns about service delivery changes.

### **Your Family's Rights**

As a reminder, as a family in early intervention, you continue to have all your rights as outlined in the AzEIP Child and Family Rights handbook. If you have a question or concern about your family's rights, please contact your Service Coordinator, «ServiceCoordinator» at «SCPhone», who can assist you with your options.

In the event that local early intervention programs or state agencies are forced to close, families will have the opportunity to contact the AzEIP office to discuss options. After the state of emergency is lifted, all families and teams will have an opportunity to meet and discuss or revisit your child's IFSP and outcomes to determine if there are changes needed to the services on the IFSP.

### **In Closing**

We have shared a lot of information with you and you may have questions as you continue to process all that this means. We want you to know that your family's health and safety is our priority, and we are here to support you. Please contact your Service Coordinator or provider for more in depth information on their agency's response to COVID-19. If you have concerns that have not been answered, call the Arizona Early Intervention Program Office at (602) 532-9960 or email [allazeip2@azdes.gov](mailto:allazeip2@azdes.gov). Be sure to check the DES/AzEIP webpage for updates regularly at <https://des.az.gov/services/disabilities/developmental-infant>.

Sincerely,

*Jenée Sisnroy*

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Program Administrator/Part C Coordinator