

Remote Services/Assessments

Until further notice¹, services and/or assessments should be provided in person, and may be provided remotely only at the parent’s request, which must be documented and specify that remote services are being requested for the 2021-22 school year. Services cannot be provided remotely during time that the student is physically present in a DOE school or program. If remote services are currently being provided, services should resume in person as soon as possible in any setting.

In-Person Services/Assessments

Providers/agencies must follow any health/safety protocols in place in the location in which the service is provided or assessment conducted (e.g., school, child care location). At minimum, providers/agencies must comply with the health and safety measures below.

Screening protocols: All providers must implement ongoing self-screening before working in-person with students. If the school/location has screening protocols in place, the provider can rely on those screening procedures and does not have to conduct their own screening of the student/family. If the school/location does not have screening protocols in place or the service is being provided in the student’s home, providers and families must implement ongoing self-screening prior to any session, including the following questions:

Face coverings: Providers must wear a face covering at all times during the service, regardless of vaccination status. Everyone who will be present for the session who is 2 years old or older must wear a face covering if it can be tolerated, regardless of vaccination status. Providers should monitor the student’s ability to keep the face covering on and adjust intervention strategies to best meet the student’s needs. Acceptable face coverings include but are not limited to cloth- based face coverings (e.g., homemade, sewn, or quick cut masks), and disposable surgical masks that cover both the mouth and nose. Bandanas and neck gaiters are not permitted. Face coverings with an exhalation valve or vent are not permitted as exhalation valves allow unfiltered exhaled air to escape to others. Face coverings that completely cover or hide an individual’s face, such as ski masks, are not permitted. Unless otherwise approved, clear face shields cannot be worn unless accompanied by a face covering. Providers may use alternate PPE (e.g., coverings that are transparent at or around the mouth) for therapies or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and/or mouths (e.g., speech therapy) or as needed when supporting certain students (e.g., students with hearing impairments) who benefit from being able to see more of the adult’s face.

Physical distancing: To the extent possible while maintaining the efficacy of the intervention/service, providers should generally attempt to keep 6 feet of physical distance from the student and any other person present in the home.

Healthy hand hygiene before, during, and after session: All providers, parents, students, and others present for the session must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol before and after the session. All providers who practice more hands-on interventions/services should put on gloves and leave them on for the entire session. After removing their gloves, providers must wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water or use a hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol. If the provider touches their face or needs to remove their mask momentarily for any reason, they must increase the distance between themselves and the student and sanitize hands before returning to close contact with the student. Disinfecting space and materials/equipment: Before each session, any materials/equipment used during the session must be cleaned/disinfected by the provider.

Group Size: Services may now be provided in-person in groups in compliance with the maximum group size associated with students’ IEP recommendation. They may be provided in a smaller group size if they cannot be provided in the maximum group size consistent with goals for physical distancing.

Location of service: Whenever possible for an IEP-recommended service, the service should be provided in the location indicated on the student’s IEP. If doing so is not possible due to physical distancing or other health/safety requirements, the service may be provided in an alternate location. The actual location of service must be reflected in any logs or records relating to the service (e.g., encounter attendance).

Parental consent for in-person services/assessments: Parental consent for in-person services/assessments is no longer required for in-person services/assessments provided in a school, child care setting, or private therapeutic setting. Parental consent for in-person services/assessment is required if the service is being provided in another setting, including a home setting. The Consent for In-Home Services should be explained to the parent and received prior to the provision of any in-person in-home services. (Note: As addressed above, parental consent is also required for remote services.)

I have read the above guidance and agree to comply with policies as listed above. I understand that the guidance can change at any time due to the ongoing nature of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Print Name

Signature

Date