

The New Normal and What it Means for Early Intervention (EI) and Intellectual Disability/Autism (ID/A) Services

As Bucks County has moved from Red to Yellow our services continue to primarily be delivered remotely with the exception of individuals residing in residential services.

Given the risk COVID-19 poses to the individuals that utilize our services and supports we will be working together with service providers to ensure services are rendered in the safest possible manner.

Thus, services will look very different even when Bucks County goes Green. Providers will be following CDC and PA Department of Health recommendations and guidelines in order to safely deliver services. Asking families and individuals about their health and recent social contacts will be necessary, along with temperature taking to prevent the spread of the disease. Social distancing and mask wearing are crucial to safeguarding infants and toddler in EI, individuals diagnosed with ID/A, families and all staff during the pandemic.



Early Intervention is working to ensure the continued safe delivery of their services. Tele-intervention and virtual evaluations continue as the primary method of service delivery, at this time. The EI program is presently considering ways to safely re-establish face-to-face EI services in our communities and will continue to assess risk, to evaluate when face-to-face services may safely be resumed. For now, the program will engage with families and providers of EI services to evaluate specific needs during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Day programs serving individuals with ID/A are assessing their ability to safely render services and how many people they will be able to support on a given day. It is very likely individuals will attend on a part-time basis. Bucks County Transport will, due to social distancing, be restricting the number of people on vehicles. Supports Coordinators are planning with individuals/families to determine their interest in returning to the day program and what will be needed should they either not desire to return or be unable to return to the day program.

Some, but not all, In Home and Community Service (IHCS) providers have continued to render services throughout the pandemic. Efforts are underway to help ensure the IHCS providers are safely rendering services as they resume service delivery. Again, an emphasis on mask wearing, ensuring the health status of the individual/family and social distancing is critical.



Residential service providers are in the process of establishing updated visitation policies in an effort to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the home.

We recognize the challenge that the pandemic has created, but inherent in challenge is opportunity and we are striving to ensure the best possible outcome for everyone while keeping people safe and healthy.

