

UPDATED SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR NJEIS

The DOH updated the safety protocols for NJEIS on April 5 based on the CDC guidance from March 24, 2021 and available public health data including the rate of transmission and vaccination rates. As in the beginning of the pandemic, the public health situation changes quickly – this time around it is for the better. The NJEIS is pleased to provide some amendments to the guidance from the April 5 document.

MASKS

April 5 Guidance: “All practitioners, *regardless of the vaccination status of the practitioner or family*, who visit in-person with NJEIS families in-home, in a service provider location, or another community setting (including childcare) are required to wear a mask for indoor activities and are strongly advised to wear a mask for outdoor activities especially when social distancing cannot be achieved.”



Amendment: On April 27, the CDC updated masking guidelines for fully vaccinated individuals. The CDC considers people fully vaccinated 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series (Pfizer or Moderna), or 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, (Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen) vaccine. NJEIS practitioners who are fully vaccinated can follow the CDC guidance for mask wearing while providing services:

The April 27, 2021 CDC guidelines state:

If you are fully vaccinated:

- ❖ You can gather indoors with fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask or staying 6 feet apart.
- ❖ You can gather indoors with unvaccinated people of any age from one other household (for example, visiting with relatives who all live together) without masks or staying 6 feet apart, unless any of those people or anyone they live with has an increased risk for severe illness from COVID-19.
- ❖ You can gather or conduct activities outdoors without wearing a mask except in certain crowded settings and venues.

When a practitioner or family does not wish to divulge their “vaccination status” indoor masking is required and outdoor masking is highly recommended.

NJEIS personnel are required to follow the protocols set by any individual childcare or other public place where NJEIS services may take place.

[Interim Public Health Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People | CDC](#)

April 5 Guidance: “On April 5, 2021 Governor Murphy and the CDC announced that fully vaccinated individuals who travel *domestically* are no longer required to self-quarantine afterwards or be tested before or after travel. As indicated in the NJEIS attestation form, NJEIS personnel and families are expected to follow the latest official information from the Governor’s office, posted on the State Covid website regarding quarantine rules/guidance”

Amendment: NJEIS personnel may follow the CDC guidance regarding travel and exposure quarantine protocols if they are fully vaccinated:

The April 27, 2021 CDC guidelines state:

If you’ve been fully vaccinated:

- ❖ *If you travel in the United States, you do not need to get tested before or after travel or self-quarantine after travel.*
- ❖ *You need to pay close attention to the situation at your international destination before traveling outside the United States. You do NOT need to self-quarantine **after** arriving in the United States.*
- ❖ *If you’ve been around someone who has COVID-19, you do not need to stay away from others or get tested unless you have symptoms.*

PRE-VISIT ATTESTATION FORM

April 5 Guidance: “NJEIS personnel *regardless of vaccination status*, preparing to provide services to children and families must do a daily self-screen for COVID-19 symptoms.” **and** “Prior to visiting a family’s home, the practitioner must ask the family to conduct a self-check for anyone who will be present for the delivery of services, including the child and other members in the household.”

Amendment: The use of the signed attestation form for practitioners and families *will be discontinued May 1, 2021*. NJEIS practitioners and families must continue to consider their health status prior to providing or receiving NJEIS services and make informed decisions based on individuals showing potential symptoms of COVID-19 or other illness.

What to do with a year’s worth of forms?



These should be scanned and electronically stored by child and put with other files that are kept by the EIP. These forms are considered part of the child’s EI record and must be maintained in the same manner as other documents.

SAFETY TRAINING AND ATTESTATION

April 5 Guidance: “All practitioners who meet the criteria in Section II (a) will be required to complete an on-line tutorial on these procedures, prepared and provided by the Department of Health (DOH.) **and** “At the conclusion of the tutorial, NJEIS personnel will provide evidence of understanding the presented content, and an electronically signed attestation stating their agreement to comply with these protocols.”

Amendment: Newly enrolled practitioners and those returning from suspension will not be required to completed the video safety training session. However, all newly enrolled practitioners and those without an attestation on file must:

- 1) Be provided a copy of the *New Jersey Department of Health Guidance to Early Intervention Providers In-Home Early Intervention Services April 5, 2021* by their agency administration.
- 2) Be provided a copy of this Dashboard with the above amendments.
- 3) Sign the updated Attestation form which states:
 - a. I am aware that the DOH provides guidance and regular updates on Safety Protocols related to the Covid-19 Pandemic.
 - b. I understand all of the current safety protocols and agree to abide by these protocols while servicing families in the NJEIS.
 - c. I understand and agree that it is my professional responsibility to stay current on all COVID mandates issued by the Governor and his representatives, as well as all DOH NJEIS, and CDC guidelines.



Submit Attestations using the link below:

<https://forms.office.com/r/D5Jx4DHDXB>

ALL OTHER DOH NJEIS SAFETY GUIDELINES REMAIN IN EFFECT PER THE APRIL 5 MEMO AND WILL BE UPDATED IN CONSIDERATION OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DATA.

SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN GETTING THEIR VACCINATIONS

WALK-IN VACCINATIONS ARE OPEN TO ALL NEW JERSEYANS AGE 16+ AT ALL SIX VACCINE MEGA-SITES AT THE FOLLOWING TIMES:

ATLANTIC CITY: 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
BERGEN: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
BURLINGTON: 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM
GLOUCESTER: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM & 2:00 PM - 6:00 PM
MIDDLESEX: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
MORRIS: 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM

covid19.nj.gov/vaccine

As trusted home visitors and sources of support for families, NJEIS professionals have the ability to provide families with resources to help them make informed decisions. The DOH vaccination scheduling system has reduced the “bumps” it experienced in the early days of the rollout and is a good resource to provide families.

[How can I get help with scheduling a vaccine appointment? | FAQ \(nj.gov\)](#)

Call (General COVID-19 Questions): [2-1-1](tel:2121) (24/7)

Call (Medical COVID-19 Questions): [1-800-962-1253](tel:18009621253) (24/7)

Call (Vaccine Appointment Support): [1-855-568-0545](tel:18555680545) (8a-8p)