



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**

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

To: All North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program Staff, Providers, and Stakeholders

From: Sharon E. Loza, Early Intervention Branch Head

Date: March 18, 2020

RE: COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Guidance

The North Carolina Early Intervention Branch received guidance issued by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) that outlines states' responsibilities to families with infants and toddlers with developmental disabilities and special needs, and to the staff and providers that serve them during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Guidance provides information that allows states to provide additional guidance related to the early intervention service delivery. OSEP's guidance document can be found here:

<https://www2.ed.gov/policy/speced/guid/idea/memosdcltrs/qa-covid-19-03-12-2020.pdf>

With the OSEP guidance received, as well as input from the Interagency Coordinating Council and North Carolina Infant-Toddler program staff and stakeholders, effective immediately, the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program (ITP) is suspending face-to-face services until March 30, 2020 or until notified of any other timeframe.

We will be providing additional guidance this week articulating interim exceptions to program procedures due to COVID-19 meant to best support our families, with the intent of maximizing alternate methods to ensure service continuity. Currently, statewide teletherapy is not available, however, Leadership within the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program is actively working towards that option.

We advise you to continue to stay current with information on the federal and state websites who continue to provide updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Public Health Agencies.

Thank you for your continued dedication to the infants/toddlers and their families in the North Carolina Infant-Toddler Program!

cc: Mr. Mark Benton  
Dr. Kelly Kimple

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**Early Intervention Branch**

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