



Reopening Guidelines for Home Base and Community Services

Early Intervention and CPSE Itinerant

Goal 1: This reopening plan addresses the specific needs surrounding the Clinical Services (PT, OT, Speech, and Social Work) for Early Intervention and CPSE itinerant services that take place at home or in community settings. This plan has been developed using guidance from the Centers for Disease Control, New York State Department of Health, the Office of Child and Family Services, New York State Education Department and the Office of Special Education, and the Local Health Departments.

Goal 2: Safely provide needed therapies to children and families who have been unable to access teletherapy services or who have shown regression or lack of progress since the start of teletherapy. Families must agree to this service and not feel pressure to participate.

Please note: EI and CPSE services SHOULD continue to be provided via telehealth, to the greatest extent possible.

Racker provides Early Intervention (EI) and Preschool Services (CPSE) for the following counties: Tompkins, Tioga, Cortland, Schulyer, Seneca, Chemung, and Onondaga.

Safety and Screening:

County Consent

Caregivers must sign a consent form stating they want services to be provided face to face. These forms are county specific. You can find them in Sharepoint→Clinic→Policy and Procedures→Early Intervention : then click on the respective county you are looking for.

- ❖ Caregivers can sign the consent at your first visit **BUT** it will be important to read this document to them prior to making any appointment
 - 1 consent required per family, not per discipline. Communicate with Service Coordinator to see if this has been done by another discipline
 - Document in note that consent for in person services signed via verbal report from SC if another provider signed or that you received the written consent if you were the discipline
 - Key Points on Consent:
 - Persons in household agree to wear masks when in home with therapists
 - If persons report that they will be unable to comply with mask wear, speak to supervisor to determine next step
 - Services can be discontinued at any time
- ❖ Consents must be sent to the appropriate places
 - Early Intervention – send to Service Coordinator
 - CPSE – send to Health Department (Tompkins-email to Deb Thomas), email one to CPSE chair

Staff Daily Health Screening

- ❖ All staff MUST perform a daily health screening and the information must be entered into their log. Screenings must be performed. Please refer to the Racker policy: Screening B4 Visiting – for traveling Staff, Off-Site
 - *Prior* to scheduling a service
 - *Prior* to traveling to a setting where you will provide a service
- ❖ If you cannot attest to everything than DO NOT provide face to face service, reschedule or offer teletherapy if possible, and contact your supervisor
- ❖ Log should be printed and kept in car and submitted to clinic director at end of month
 - Log found on Raker Connect in the Coronavirus info section : Log for Traveling Staff, self screen

Screening for Family BEFORE traveling to home site:

- ❖ All therapists MUST call ahead and ask the family members the following questions
 1. Have you or anyone in the household been tested and confirmed to have COVID-19?
 2. Is anyone in the household under quarantine or isolation due to a possible expose to Covid 19?
 3. Do you or anyone in your household have any symptoms of a respiratory infection
 - a. Cough
 - b. Sore throat
 - c. Fever
 - d. Shortness of breath
 - e. Body aches
 - f. Nausea or diarrhea
 4. Have you traveled to any high- risk countries, states or New York City? (quarantine for 14 days is required after travel before a home visit is resumed)
 - a. Refer to this website for states (can change frequently)
<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/covid-19-travel-advisory>
- ❖ If the answer to **all** of these Questions is NO then the risk for exposure to COVID-19 is low and the visit can be conducted using the Strategies to Prevent the Spread of Infection
- ❖ **If the answer is “yes” to any of the screening questions, the therapy visit should be cancelled or rescheduled using teletherapy.**
 - **If any of the answers are “yes” to signs of illness, please remind them to call their physician to be tested for Covid 19.**
 - **home visits should resume only after clearance from a physician or health department)**

Screening for Therapist and Children seen at Daycare and Head Start

- ❖ Daycares and Head Start have had to develop their own screening plans for the children. Please check with the family and the daycare prior to starting the service to understand the protocols that are in place

- Note: off-site protocols will be followed along with Racker policies for staff screening and log as well as mask wearing, hand hygiene and cleaning and disinfecting.

Strategies to Prevent Spread of Infection

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

- Therapists MUST wear a face covering at all times when with a caregiver/child.
 - Racker has a variety of options if you require a different PPE based on the type of service that you are providing and the needs of the child
 - Please reach out to your supervisor to make any specific requests based on service needs
- Caregivers and other persons in the household should wear a face covering while therapist is in the home
 - If this is difficult for the family, please reach out to your supervisor to determine next steps

Hand Hygiene

- All therapists should perform frequent Hand Washing
 - Hands should be washed with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
 - Must be done:
 - before and after all individual contact with potentially infectious material
 - Before and after putting on and after removing PPE (including facemask)
 - Before and after each session
 - Upon entering and exiting a setting
- IF soap and water are not immediately available, an alcohol based hand sanitizer, containing at least 60% alcohol may be used

Maintain Physical Distance

- ❖ To the greatest extent possible, a physical distance of 6 ft. should be maintained when inside the home
 - this may be more difficult with the children that we surface but should be attempted with persons in the home to the best extent possible
 - If the weather permits and family is willing you may choose to work outside the home
 - Reminder: PPE is required AT ALL TIMES when you are with a child/caregiver

Documentation

- ❖ Document that a health screen was done for all persons in household and the therapist.
- ❖ Document results in your session note

Special Requirements:

- ❖ NO TOYS should be taken in the home

- If therapist decides that a child requires a piece of equipment in their home in order to help child progress towards IFSP goals it must be disinfected thoroughly prior to entering home and remain in the home for them to utilize
 - Staff must have permission from family prior to bring anything into home and document this in service note
- ❖ If needed at itinerant sites (ie. Daycare or head start) the therapist may bring in a small bag of toys if:
 - Facility grants permission (due to lack of toy/equipment availability)
 - Toys can be easily cleaned at completion of session
 - Therapist has access to cleaning supplies