



## Families – Coronavirus/COVID-19

As you know, the United States is currently in a Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. West Virginia now has our first confirmed cases and we expect there will be more in the future. Schools, restaurants, gyms even churches are closing to reduce anyone's exposure. We know you have many questions about your WV Birth to Three services and want to make sure you know that we are committed to the safety of the children and families we serve as well as to our providers and their families too.

Thank you to the families who have called to ask questions. We have used your questions to create this document to support our WV Birth to Three families in this very unsettling time.

### **1. Is WV Birth to Three still providing services?**

*Yes! WV Birth to Three is committed to assuring that all referred families and families who are currently receiving services will be able to obtain those services that their child is eligible for under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Services may look different during this time, but we are still providing services.*

### **2. If I want to receive services during the COVID-19 outbreak, how will they be provided?**

*From March 18, 2020 to April 20, 2020, WV Birth to Three services including Intakes for newly referred families, initial and annual evaluation/assessment, team meetings and IFSP services will take place by phone or HIPAA compliant technology. If the state of emergency extends beyond April 30, 2020, we will reevaluate our policy.*

### **3. What does HIPAA compliant communication technology mean?**

*HIPAA compliant communication technology allows your service providers to communicate with you in a manner that meets all requirements for confidentiality.*

### **4. Can I waive my direct services until the state of emergency is over?**

*Yes, families may elect to waive their direct services during this state of emergency. You may contact your Interim or On-Going Service Coordinator and let them know that you have decided to waive your services until a later date.*

### **5. Will I still receive service coordination? My family may need support from other programs and services if there is an outbreak in my community.**

*Yes, WV Birth to Three is requiring service coordinators to contact each family on a monthly basis. Your service coordinator will check in to see how you are doing and provide you with information for other needed community services or supports.*

### **6. My child is turning three, what will happen with services for him?**

*WV Birth to Three is required to provide transition services to all children/families as the child approaches age three. Your service coordinator will work with to assist you in the transition of your child. It is important to note that all county school districts are closed at this time but in some counties, board office personnel may be available to begin the process to determine eligibility for Part B Special Education Services.*

### **7. Where do I go to find updates?**

*WV Birth to Three will be posting updates on the website often to keep our families and practitioners informed.*

*[www.wvdhhr.org/birth23](http://www.wvdhhr.org/birth23)*