

Los Niños Services, Inc.
New York City Homecare Reopening Plan

Agency Name: Los Niños Services, Inc.

Provider Agency ID #: 4171

Administrative Address: 535 8th Avenue 6th Floor, New York, NY 10018

Program(s) provided at this site: Early Intervention Individual Homecare Services

Contact Person: Lana Fargiano, Program Manager Staten Island

Contact Person: Marilena Drakopoulou, Clinical Director NYC

Contact Phone Number: 212-787-9700 **Contact Email Address:** info@losninos.com

Lana.Fargiano@losninos.com Marilena.D@losninos.com

Website where this plan and any plan updates will be posted: www.losninos.com

COVID-19 Addendum to Early Intervention Health and Safety

EI-Specific Components for Re-opening Homecare

Introduction

This plan was developed to conform to the guidance provided by the New York State Department of Health in their June 18, 2020, document entitled: Guidance to Early Intervention Providers Regarding Novel Coronavirus, June 22, 2020 document, titled EIP's Return to In-Person Services Action Plan During COVID19 and June 22,202 document titled NYC BEI Guidance for using Materials Found in the Home and Community During Early Intervention Services, NYC Department of Health and the Center for Disease Control (CDC)

This plan is subject to change and will be revised as needed to adjust to changing public health conditions caused by the COVID-19 virus and all of the new requirements and regulations, which may emerge over time as recommended, by NYCDOH, NYS BEI, and CDC.

While telehealth continues to be the primary recommended mode of service delivery by BEI and Los Niños Services, Los Niños Services will permit In-Person service delivery as of July 27, 2020. The goal of the plan is to guide the delivery of high-quality services as safely as possible while resuming in person services. Our focus and concerns extend to the social and emotional needs of our children, families and staff members.

Communications Plan

- LNS has affirmed that they have reviewed and understand the state-issued industry guidelines and that they will implement them.
- LNS will refer to CDC guidance on "Symptoms of Coronavirus" for the most up to date information on symptoms associated with COVID-19.

- A communication plan for employees and EI families that includes applicable instructions, training, and signage regarding physical distancing rules, appropriate use of PPE, cleaning and disinfection protocols have been provided.
- Families who wish to have in person services have been asked to review and sign the following documents:
 - Los Niños COVID-19 Client Waiver and Release Form
 - Los Niños Client Informed Consent for In-Person Services During Covid-19 Public Health Crisis
 - NYC - BEI Consent to Initiate or Resume In-Person Services during COVID-19
- Providers who wish to provide in person EI services have been asked to review and sign the following document
 - COVID19 Los Niños Services Provider or Administrative Staff Informed Consent for In person services and Office Visits
- Los Niños Services will provide periodic communication/updates to families' if/when NYC status of BEI service delivery happens to change.

Health and Safety Measure for Homecare

Daily Pre-visit screening Requirement for Providers and families

Procedure:

All Los Niños Services EI providers are required to conduct a daily self-screening assessment by completing the NYC- LNS COVID19 Health Screening Assessment form and contact each family by phone prior to the session to review the following questions to ensure that no one:

- Has COVID-19 symptoms, such as fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, muscle pain, sore throat, new loss of taste or smell, etc.
- Has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- Has been told by a health care provider or the NYC Test & Trace Corps to remain home due to being exposed to COVID-19
- Has Traveled to a state/country on the NYS travel ban list
- If the answer to any of these questions is yes:
 - Supervisor will inform local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by an employee or client
 - The sessions will be rescheduled at least 14 days out or those sessions can be delivered via teletherapy (if the parent or guardian has signed consent for the use of teletherapy).
 - Clinician will document in a session note
 - Clinical will notify the clinical supervisor and Case Manager

- Case manager will inform the Service Coordinator and document in Providersoft.

Face Covering Requirements

- Los Niños Services EI providers must wear a face covering during the entire course of EI service delivery.
- EI providers may use alternate face coverings (such as face shields that are transparent at or around the mouth) for therapies or interventions that require visualization of the movement of the lips and mouth (for example, speech therapy).
- Everyone who will be part of the session and is over the age of 2 years must wear a face covering.
- The child who is receiving EI services is encouraged but not required to wear a face covering during sessions.

Physical Distancing

- EI services require that therapists interact with children and families in close proximity, making physical distancing difficult or impossible to maintain.
- Anyone who is not participating in the session must maintain at least 6 feet of physical distance.
- Los Niños Services will make sure that child, caregiver and staff schedules are as static as possible by having the same providers consistently interact with the same families to the greatest extent possible.
- Los Niños Services will maintain a staffing plan that does not require employees to “float” between different children, unless a permanent staffing change must be done.
- EI sessions are encouraged to take place in well-ventilated areas, such as outside to the greatest extent possible.
- EI Therapists will ask families to open doors and windows to allow for fresh air to circulate

Hand Hygiene Before, During and After Any EI Session

- All EI providers must make sure that:
 - All parents, caregivers and children participating in the session wash their hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water before and after the session and upon entry into a center-based or facility location.
 - Families must ensure that therapists/teachers have access to soap, running water, and paper towels.
- All EI providers must wash their hands for 20 seconds using soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that is at least 60% alcohol before and after each session.

- It is recommended that providers who practice more hands-on therapeutic approaches put on gloves and leave them on for the entire session (i.e. feeding therapy).
- Therapists who will use gloves will be required to check with families to ensure that the child is not allergic to any ingredient found in the gloves.
- If gloves must be replaced for some reason during the session (for example, contact with stool or excessive body fluids such as saliva, mucus, vomit or urine), therapists will remove them, wash hands as described above, and put on a new pair of gloves.
- Therapists who use gloves will leave gloves on until the end of the session. Remove by grasping the inside of the wrist end and pulling inside-out over your fingers, then discard into a plastic bag or lined trashcan. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol or wash hands with soap and water for 20 seconds after removing gloves.

Use of Toys and Other Materials

Home-based and community-based settings:

- Los Niños Services EI providers will NOT bring materials and toys from outside into home-based and community-based settings. Providers will utilize the toys/materials found in the home.
 - When utilizing household items the following safety precautions will be put in place:
 - EI providers will discuss with families which household items can/will be used during ABA session prior to the session
 - Parents are required to clean/sanitize items to be used during therapy in the beginning and end of the session.
 - Materials will not be shared between children.

ABA Therapy

- Reinforcers are a key component to any ABA program. At this time when choosing tangible items as reinforcers, it is essential that caregiver input is taken into consideration so that reinforcers can be found or developed from items that are in the child's home before resorting to other avenues.
- The use of reinforcers that are found at home and can be used during every day routines of the child and family are that they increase the likelihood of a caregiver using that reinforcer regularly and appropriately, which in turn leads to mastery and generalization of a skill much more quickly.

Note: Infants and toddlers learn best through everyday experiences and interactions with familiar people in familiar contexts (routine activities). Therapists/teachers will help the caregiver understand how their own toys and materials can be used or adapted to support the child's engagement and functioning during their routine activities, since this allows for frequent practice, mastery of skills, and generalization.

Note: If the program manager is notified that a family is not following health and safety guidelines; she/he will contact the provider to obtain details. Program manager will

then notify the Service Coordinator and request SC to review health and safety procedures. If a family is not able to follow health and safety requirements, then, in-person services will be terminated and telehealth services will be offered to the family.

Tracing and Tracking

- The Program Manager will notify the state and local health department immediately upon being informed of any positive COVID-19 test result by an employee and/or EI family.
- In the case of an employee or EI family testing positive, the Program Manager or HR Representative will implement the following procedures in each scenario

1. If Los Ninos Services is notified that a therapist is sick:

- Inform Program Manager immediately
- Inform HR
- Inform Service Coordinator (SC)
 - Document call in Providersoft
 - Inform SC that family must stop all home services for 14 days
 - Inform SC that family may go back to telehealth for 14 days
 - SC must notify all other home therapists outside Los Ninos servicing the EI family in the home – they must stop in person services for 14 days and provide telehealth services if appropriate
- Inform family
 - Document call in Providersoft
 - Family must be informed that therapists is unwell
 - Family must be informed that all home services need to stop for 14 days; telehealth services can take place if appropriate
- Inform other Los Niño’s providers on the case
 - All home services must stop for 14 days
 - Services will be switched to Telehealth for the next 14 days if appropriate

2. If notified that a family/child is sick

- Inform Program Manager
- Inform HR
- Inform Los Ninos providers on the case
 - Document call in Providersoft
 - In person services must stop for 14 days
 - Telehealth can replace home services if appropriate
- Inform SC
 - Document call in Providersoft
 - In person services must stop for 14 days
 - Telehealth can replace home services if appropriate

Additional safety information, guidelines, and resources are available at:

New York State Department of Health Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Coronavirus (COVID-19) Website

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html>