



January 21, 2021

Dear Parents & Caregivers,

We are wishing you all well in the New Year.

We are again receiving guidance from the Commonwealth, which is now encouraging early intervention programs to resume in-person instruction, while at the same time allowing parents the option to continue virtual learning for their children should they remain concerned about exposure to COVID-19.

Our goal, in light of this new guidance, is to get our children back to in-person services as quickly as possible, including children receiving services in the community and in center-based programs. The tentative reopening date for children receiving their early intervention services in a specialized classroom is **Monday, February 15, 2021**. Families of these children will receive detailed communication regarding reopening plans directly from your child's program. Families of children in community settings, including the home, will be contacted about plans for the resumption of in-person services as service providers are able to resume such services. All parents who remain concerned with these plans will have the ability to opt for continuation of virtual services.

As we reopen, be assured that accounting for the health and safety of children, staff and families remains of paramount importance. As such, we are re-issuing our health and safety plan (* See link to Health and Safety Plan below), and reviewing safety protocols with staff and families. Please continue to do your part to minimize the spread of COVID by wearing masks, washing hands, social distancing, and avoiding indoor gatherings. By working together, we believe that we can resume in-person services to our children with limited risk of COVID transmission.

If you remain concerned about returning your child to in-person services, and if you opt to remain in virtual programming, please feel free to share with your child's LEA any concerns you might have about continuing the virtual option, such as issues with technology, connectivity, or scheduling. We will make every effort to address your concerns.

If you are concerned about your child's progress, please continue to work with your IEP Team, your LEA Representative (Service Coordinator), and service providers to discuss your child's ongoing progress.

For regional contact information, call (215) 222 – 4181 Monday to Friday; 8:00am to 4:00pm or send an inquiry through the regional email:

ELS-North-East Region: ELS-North-Northeast@elwyn.org
ELS-Northwest-Central Region: ELS-Northwest-Central@elwyn.org
ELS-South-West Region: ELS-South-West@elwyn.org



**Full Guidance: Governor Wolf's Administration Updates Recommendations to Help Schools Safely Navigate COVID-19 During Second Semester.*

<https://www.media.pa.gov/pages/Education-details.aspx?newsid=1024>

Video: <https://pacast.com/m?p=18471>

*Elwyn ELS Health and Safety Plan:

https://www.elwyn.org/images/pdf_files/ELS_Phased_School_Reopening_Health_and_Safety_Plan_08282020.pdf

Sincerely,

Veronica Williams
Executive Director
Elwyn Early Learning Services (ELS)