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As announced on Wednesday, July 15, 2020, Indiana will remain at stage 4.5 of its “Back on Track” plan for at least another two weeks.

Although the “Back on Track” plan has paused, the Indiana Department of Child Services (DCS) continues to be tasked with ensuring the safety and well-being of Hoosier children. Therefore, the agency and providers will continue making case-by-case decisions, balancing child-safety risks with COVID-19 ones, when serving children and families.

For example, if it is believed that a child may be in danger, or an initial assessment is being conducted due to an allegation of abuse or neglect, providers and staff members must see the child face-to-face, and do so following all recommended CDC and ISDH guidance. For all other cases, child and family teams should continue to weigh COVID-19 and child-safety risks when determining whether to deliver services virtually or in-person; either remains permissible with the advance approval of the CFT who best know all of the variables present within specific cases.

We must let the practice model guide us in our decision-making. If we rely on our trust-based relationships, values and skills the children in our care will receive the best outcomes. These are challenging times, and adaptability and critical thinking will be key to continuing to serve Hoosier children and families safely.

Sincerely,
David Reed, MSW, LCSW, CSAYC
Deputy Director
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