

NH Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)
Division of Long Term Supports and Services
Bureau for Family Centered Services
Family Centered Early Supports and Services

129 Pleasant St.
Concord, NH 03301

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE FCESS GENERAL MEMORANDUM (GM)	
DATE:	1/25/21
TO:	Area Agency Executive Directors, Area Agency Family Centered Early Supports & Services Management, and Program Directors
FROM:	Deirdre Dunn Tierney, Chief, Bureau for Family Centered Services
SIGNATURE:	<i>Deirdre Dunn Tierney</i>
SUBJECT:	FCESS COVID-19 Emergency Guidance #7
GM NUMBER:	BFCS-COVID-19-007-FCESS
EFFECTIVE DATE:	1/25/21
REGULATORY GUIDANCE:	This memo is a communication tool circulated for informational purposes only. The goal is to provide information and guidance to the individuals to whom it is addressed. The contents of this memo and the information conveyed are subject to change. This communication is not intended to take the place of or alter written law, regulations or rule.

MEMORANDUM SUMMARY
<p>The purpose of this memorandum is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace previous guidance memo GM NUMBER: BFCS-COVID-19-006-FCESS. • Provide statewide guidance to state designated area agencies and provider agencies relative to COVID-19 Emergency to ensure continuity of service delivery.

Emergency guidance #6 was issued by BFCS on 11/5/2020 and indicated that based on guidance from the Office of Special Education Program (OSEP), if Family Centered Early Supports and Services (FCESS) were to be provided via alternative means to in person, such as telecommunications, that an amendment to the IFSP to reflect this alternative must be completed.

Subsequent to Emergency Guidance #6, NH's OSEP liaison provided further clarification to BFCS that the provision of teleintervention services are considered to be occurring in the child's natural environment if the child is located in the natural environment at the time of the intervention. Therefore, during the COVID-19 pandemic, services provided through alternative means (e.g. video conference & Skype) while the child is in a location that complies with the natural environment requirements of He-M 510.04(b) , are deemed to satisfy the rule and no amendment to the IFSP shall be necessary.

Do not hesitate to contact the Part C Office Kathy Gray via phone 271-3783 or email Kathleen.gray@dhhs.nh.gov or Deirdre Dunn Tierney at Deirdre.dunn@dhhs.nh.gov with any questions.