

3/23/2020

*This message is being sent on behalf of Lana Brooks, DESE-Early Learning Director.*

Additional guidance on virtual visits is now available in O.L.I.V.E.R. on the Parents as Teachers National Center's (PATNC) webpage. The technical assistance brief entitled *Supporting Families during the COVID-19 Public Health Crisis: Model Guidance for Virtual Service Delivery* has been updated to include information on telecommunication visits. PATNC is continuing to provide up-to-date guidance to support programs during this time and will continue to do so as needed. Review the information carefully.

- Telecommunication visits can be completed via phone calls. These communications will continue to support families through the delivery of the PAT model with all three areas of emphasis: development-centered parenting, parent-child interaction and family well-being. These visits will be planned and documented as required in the same manner as visits delivered in-person. Refer to the Early Childhood Development Act (ECDA) Administrative Manual for specifics on documenting a personal visit.
- It is important to note that phone calls made to check in with families or connect them to resources does not meet the requirements of a virtual home visit and is not reimbursable.

At this time, we are not making adjustments to the information requested on the Final Invoice. All family visits, including virtual visits, will be reported for reimbursement in Section I. The Final Invoice and Final Payment Request will be due May 15, 2020. I would encourage programs to report all of the services provided related to the four components of PAT. These services must be documented as required in the ECDA Administrative Manual.

We understand that these are difficult times for communities and we want to support school districts in their efforts to be a strong foundation for Missouri's youngest children. **The Missouri Parents as Teachers Association (MOPATA) will be facilitating a conversation around virtual home visiting on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 at Noon that will include our DESE Early Learning staff and staff from PATNC.** See the attachment for details. We look forward to this opportunity to come together and share conversation and support for the work that is happening in Missouri around virtual home visiting. If you have questions, be sure to communicate with your Early Learning [Supervisor](#). We are here to support you.