

Guidance-Speech/Language therapy: 04.08.20

Many speech language therapy practitioners are concerned about implications on their licensure if they are providing telehealth services during the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. While ASHA has been hesitant to offer direct guidance around relaxing their standards, in communications with ASHA they have indicated that some states are making accommodations during the global pandemic. Further, they recommend checking with state licensing boards for the latest information. They recommend referring to state licensing boards, in essence deferring to states during the period of alternative learning.

In Maine, there are no laws pertaining to telehealth services. The Office of Professional & Occupational Regulation shares that the [Board of Speech, Audiology, and Hearing Laws & Rules](#) are silent on teletherapy services. In Maine, if you are licensed to provide speech services in Maine, you can provide these services to students in our state. This does not require you to be physically present in the state. And barring any laws preventing telehealth services, and the silence around these issues provided by state and national licensing agencies, The Department supports practitioners providing these services through alternative platforms.

Guidance issued by the Department supports providing services to students with special needs, and to make every effort to meet the intent of the IEP. Commissioner Makin has provided guidance that these services should continue. The federal government has provided guidance regarding FAPE, indicating that you should do as much as you can, as best as you can. We believe that you should prioritize student needs during this time, and the federal government agrees.

Thank you for all you do for children,