

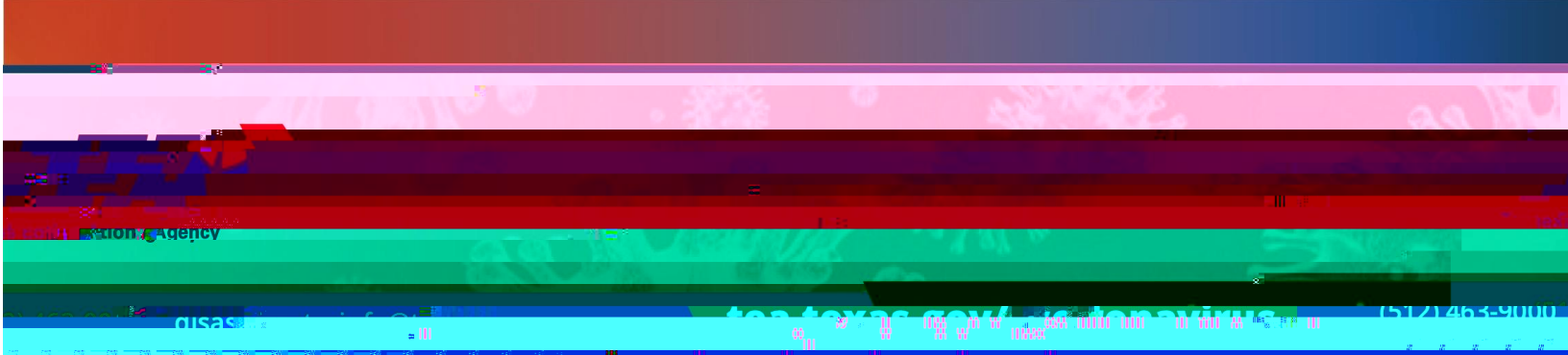
Occupational and physical therapy (OT and PT respectively) are related services that typically require therapists providing direct services to be in close physical proximity to their students. This need for physical proximity creates significant barriers to the provision of direct services to these students during the COVID 19 pandemic response. The following includes considerations and key points to assist LEAs as they work to most effectively move these direct services typically provided to students to an indirect, or consultative, model of service delivery in which families and caregivers are the individuals working to implement services.

There is no defined or correct method to adequately and equitably meet the needs of all students in an unprecedented event such as the current COVID-19 pandemic response. Local education agencies (LEAs) need to be flexible and consider employing a variety of delivery options as they make reasonable efforts to provide services to students with disabilities. Above all, LEAs should prioritize the health and safety of students, staff, and communities. The next priority for LEAs is to communicate with families regarding service provision. Families should be directly involved in planning for temporary changes to services provided to students during the COVID 19 pandemic response.

LEAs should identify and acknowledge service delivery limitations, while they make and document reasonable efforts to provide students eligible for special education with a Free and Appropriate Public Education (FAPE

services to students

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Keep the best interest of the student in mind, considering their current situation.