



Michigan's Public Health Hearing & Vision Screening Programs

Information for Healthcare Providers

What is the Michigan Hearing & Vision Screening Program?

Michigan's Hearing and Vision screenings are offered FREE of charge by local health departments in collaboration with local schools; the programs are administered by the Michigan Department of Community Health.

The Hearing & Vision programs have been implemented for more than 60 years to the benefit of generations of Michigan children.

Over 1.1 million children are screened annually for hearing and vision problems. Over 87,000 children are referred to eye care professionals and physicians for follow-up care.



The Importance of Early Identification

No child is too young to be screened.

Upon diagnosis, immediate treatment increases the likelihood of remediating temporary difficulties and preventing them from becoming permanent problems.

When children are not identified and do not receive early intervention services, special education for a child with hearing loss costs schools an additional \$420,000 and has a lifetime cost of approximately \$1 million per individual.

The annual cost of untreated amblyopia is approximately \$7.4 billion in lost productivity. (InfantSEE® Program 2002)



It's The Law!

The Hearing & Vision programs offer FREE screenings to all Michigan children.

Michigan Law Requires: that local health departments offer hearing and vision screening at least once between the ages 3-5, in kindergarten, 2nd, & 4th grades (hearing) and 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, & 9th grades (vision) at no cost to families; it also requires screening PRIOR to kindergarten entry.

It's Priceless!

Sam's failed hearing test led to the early discovery of an operable brain tumor.

The value of the Hearing and Vision Program you administer is priceless. Our family is an example of how a program such as yours can save the life of a beautiful child.

Lee Ann, mother of Samantha from Livonia, MI



Michigan's Hearing & Vision Technicians

Local health department employed technicians complete and pass a comprehensive four-week educational training with practicum.

Technicians provide objective hearing and vision screenings using State approved protocols and equipment.

To maintain quality, all technicians are evaluated on a regular basis to ensure compliance with program policies and protocols.

Every two years, technicians must attend a continuing education workshop hosted by the State of Michigan.



Hearing and Vision Screenings

The Hearing Program:

- Identifies hearing loss (conductive, sensorineural, and mixed) as well as middle ear pathology.

The Vision Program:

- Includes testing for visual acuity, eye muscle function, nearsightedness, farsightedness, and symptoms of other eyesight problems.

Both programs are standardized so that every child receives consistent screening, referral, and follow-up services.



How Can You Help?

In order to maintain funding and prove the efficacy of these programs, it is essential that we receive documentation that confirms medical intervention, diagnosis, and treatment recommendations.

Parents are provided with paperwork to be completed by your office. Paperwork should be faxed to your local health department's Hearing or Vision program.

When a child is identified with a hearing or vision problem, your assistance is invaluable in referring them to the appropriate intervention specialists (Early On, Special Education and other professionals) as necessary.

communication is the key to success

Facts to Share with Parents

Early identification of hearing and vision problems increases each child's opportunity for academic and social success.

According to Michigan law, a child's hearing and vision must be screened PRIOR to school entry.

These services may be provided at your child's pre-school program or are available at your local health department.

Children ages five and up are screened according to the following schedule:



Hearing and Vision Screening Requirements*		
Pre-school	X	X
Kindergarten	X	
1st Grade		X
2nd Grade	X	
3rd Grade		X
4th Grade	X	
5th Grade		X
7th Grade		X
9th		X

*Some local public health departments may schedule screenings at different intervals. Call your local public health department for more information.

