Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities

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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local News Media

From: Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD)

RE: Hearing and Vision Screening Offered Year Round for Preschool – 9th Graders

Release Date: Immediately (September 1, 2020)

HEARING AND VISION SCREENING OFFERED BY LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS FOR SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN

Good vision and having the ability to hear are two important elements in helping a child succeed. Make sure your child gets their eyes and ears checked.

Clearness of vision, eye muscle balance, nearsightedness and farsightedness are tests offered during a vision screening through Central Michigan District Health Department. Hearing screenings have often been helpful in identifying hearing loss and providing assistance in finding the appropriate medical referrals if further testing is needed. [1]The Health Department offers both screenings to children during the school year at no cost to the parents. For children 3 through 6 years of age with Medicaid coverage, your insurance covers the cost of the screening.

Our state trained staff provides vision screening services to children in preschool and in the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th grades. Hearing screening is done for preschool children and those in kindergarten, 2nd and 4th grade. Preschoolers are screened in larger daycares, Head Start centers, or during kindergarten round ups. Students are screened throughout the school year as our technicians visit each school district. Other children may be screened at the request of a teacher or parent. Screening may also be offered at our health department clinics by appointment if needed. This year looks a lot different to all of us and we will be offering more appointments in the health department if we cannot get to the children at the schools. If parents have concerns about their child's hearing/vision, please contact the health department and set up an appointment with our technician at the closest location.

All children who are being home schooled can also get screened at no cost to the parent. Any family with home schooled children can call the local health department branch office in their county and ask to make an appointment for hearing and vision screening. Appointments are available during the summer months as well.

Keep in mind that if a child is coming to the health department for immunizations that they could also make arrangements for hearing and vision screenings at that time pending we have a technician available and not in a school that day.

The parent of any child that does not pass the screening is contacted and asked to take the child in for more testing by a doctor. Approximately 10% of children screened for vision and 5% of children screened for hearing in Michigan are referred to specialists.[1] Referrals to community services for assistance are also available. For more information or to set up a screening appointment for eligible school age children please call:

Arenac County: (989) 846-6541 ext. 1324

Clare County: (989) 539-6731 ext. 1217

Gladwin County: (989) 426-9431 ext. 1324

Isabella County: (989) 773-5921 ext. 1488

Osceola County: (231) 832-5532 ext. 1521

Roscommon County: (989) 366-9166 ext. 1217

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola and Roscommon. Visit our website at www.cmdhd.org, LIKE Central Michigan District Health Department on Facebook and follow us on Twitter @CMiDHD.

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[1]Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Hearing and Vision Screening Programs
http://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/0,5885,7-339-73971_4911_4912-260177--,00.html

To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.