

MIHP Biweekly Update

October 23, 2023



Maternal Infant Health Program

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MIHP Exception Requests and Form Available

Below is a reminder regarding MIHP Policy Exceptions. To enhance submission of policy exception requests, a fillable form is now available upon request. Please email mihp@michigan.gov for a copy of this form. The form is not required but contains the elements needed for the exception review process.

In limited situations, when beneficiary needs do not align with outlined MIHP program parameters, an MIHP provider may request a program exception. The exception process is documented in both the Medicaid Provider Manual and the MIHP Operations Guide. The following circumstances are considered exceptions and require approval:

- Initiation of services for a child over 12 months of age
- Continuation of services beyond 18 months of age
- A beneficiary whose Risk Identifier scores “no risks” but who could benefit from MIHP services

The program exception request must be submitted to MDHHS MIHP staff for review for beneficiaries enrolled with Fee for Service (FFS) and those enrolled with a Medicaid Health Plan (MHP). To request an exception, the MIHP provider must submit the following written documentation to the MDHHS MIHP team, via fax or encrypted email:

- Beneficiary name
- Medicaid ID
- Date of birth
- Payor source for beneficiary
- Type of exception
- Rationale for the exception which should include as appropriate:
 - Identified risks
 - Detail of services to be provided such as: A brief plan on support to be provided to the beneficiary, anticipated number of visits, and a brief transition plan

If a response has not been received by the MIHP team within 5 business days, please follow up by email at mihp@michigan.gov.

MIHP providers must keep all written documentation regarding the exception decision in the beneficiary’s chart.

Beneficiaries enrolled with a health plan must have the exception documented on page 2 of the MHP Communication Tool, MDHHS-5650, sent monthly to the beneficiary’s Health Plan.

Note:

- A risk score for Birth Health does not have a plan of care. However, services may still be offered for the beneficiary based on professional judgement without requesting an exception.
- Requests must receive approval before exception services are provided.
- Retroactive requests for exceptions are not granted unless an emergency is documented on the Professional Visit Provider Note (PVPN) or Contact Log.

2023 Home Visiting Yearbook Available



National Home Visiting
Resource Center

Helping Children &
Families Thrive

The National Home Visiting Resource Center (NHVRC) has released its [2023 Home Visiting Yearbook](#), a nationwide and state-by-state look at early childhood home visiting.

The publication presents 2022 data from evidence-based (including [MIHP](#)) and emerging home visiting models and from state agencies and the Administration for Children and Families to highlight:

- Where programs operate, the families they serve, and the families who could benefit but are not being reached
- Profiles of states, models, and Indigenous-led organizations
- Services delivered by state awardees and tribal grantees of the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program

Users can navigate the [NHVRC website](#) to access data and download short publications, including the *Yearbook Summary*. The *2023 Yearbook* includes virtual and in-person home visit data to reflect the field's hybrid approach to delivering services. It also includes maternal and child health indicator data to offer insight into family well-being and the potential need for services. These data are disaggregated by race and ethnicity to inform conversations about using home visiting to promote equity.



Learning
Resources

MDHHS Launches New Statewide Action Plan to Improve Birth Equity

Vision is “Zero Preventable Deaths, Zero Health Disparities”

The MDHHS Division of Maternal and Infant Health has launched a new four-year plan focused on improving birth outcomes for Michigan families.

[Advancing Healthy Births: An Equity Plan for Michigan Families & Communities \(2024 – 2028\)](#) highlights four priority areas:

- Health across the reproductive span.
- Full-term, healthy weight babies.
- Infants safely sleeping.
- Mental, behavioral health and well-being.

“MDHHS is committed to improving the health of pregnant and postpartum people, their babies and their families through birth equity,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Equity is the framework that guides and informs all recommended actions in the new plan. *Advancing Healthy Births* outlines concrete actions to better serve Michigan families, with a special focus on improving care for Black families and other marginalized communities who frequently experience barriers to care.”

The *Advancing Healthy Births* plan was developed in consultation with Michigan families and other maternal-infant health experts in the state. Twelve Town Hall events were hosted by Michigan’s Regional Perinatal Quality Collaboratives to collect community insights and ideas about improving health in our state. The *Advancing Healthy Births* plan continues the work started by the *Mother Infant Health & Equity Improvement Plan (2020 – 2023)* and is the next step in working toward an equitable Michigan.

The plan requires statewide action from all Michiganders and includes the following goals to show improved health for Michigan families by 2028:

- Reduce infant mortality rate to six deaths per 1,000 live births.
- Reduce eclampsia rate to 5.6 cases per 10,000 hospital deliveries.
- Reduce teen birth rate to nine births per 1,000 females ages 15-19.
- Increase number of Michigan doulas trained and on the MDHHS Doula Registry to 500.
- Increase number of hospitals fully implementing the [Severe Hypertension in Pregnancy Safety Bundle \(MI AIM\)](#) to 90%.

The strategies to address these goals are outlined in the plan and include increasing services, expanding access, promoting best practices, expanding resources and support and provider training and education. Results will be evaluated using a combination of numerical data and personal stories from Michigan families.

The plan also provides an update on recent achievements in the care of pregnant people and infants, including doula services being eligible for Medicaid reimbursement, Medicaid coverage extended for the 12-month postpartum period, infant safe sleep certification program for EMS agencies and fire departments, and vaccine hesitancy education.

[View the Advancing Healthy Births plan](#) and discover how you can help work towards improving outcomes for families in Michigan.



Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

MDHHS recommends residents get vaccinated for flu, COVID-19 and RSV to prepare for respiratory illness season

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Oct. 12, 2023

CONTACT: Chelsea Wuth, 517-241-2112, WuthC@michigan.gov

MDHHS recommends residents get vaccinated for flu, COVID-19 and RSV to prepare for respiratory illness season

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is recommending residents get the flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines to protect themselves and their communities against respiratory viruses this upcoming season.

Getting vaccinated is critical because flu, COVID-19 and RSV frequently spread at the same time of year. Residents can get their COVID-19 vaccine at the same time as the flu vaccine and [RSV vaccine](#) if they are eligible. Vaccinations are safe, effective strategies to protect residents, their families and communities from illness.

“With the addition of COVID-19 to respiratory illness season during fall and winter, it is important to use tools to prevent getting sick and spreading illness, which includes getting safe and effective vaccines,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Flu, COVID-19 and RSV vaccines are available in many convenient locations, from primary care providers to local pharmacies, and you can receive them at the same time.”

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) expects 2023-24 to be similar to 2022-23 in terms of total number of hospitalizations from seasonal respiratory illnesses. During the 2022-23 flu season, [the nation recorded](#) 27 to 54 million estimated cases of flu, 12 to 26 million flu medical visits and 19,000 to 58,000 estimated deaths from the flu. Despite its comparison to the common cold, the flu can be a serious and potentially deadly disease, especially for children, older adults and people with chronic health conditions, which is why vaccination remains a critical strategy for prevention.

Adults ages 65 years and older are recommended to receive one of the following if available: high-dose influenza vaccine, adjuvanted influenza vaccine or recombinant influenza vaccine, over the standard-dose influenza vaccine. If none of the recommended vaccines are available, any age-appropriate vaccine should be used and the opportunity to be vaccinated should not be missed. The flu vaccine is the best way to reduce risk from the seasonal flu and its potentially serious complications. Each year flu vaccination [reduces the burden of influenza](#) significantly in the United States preventing millions of illnesses, and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths.

Most Michigan residents can still get a COVID-19 vaccine for free. For people with health insurance, most plans will cover the COVID-19 vaccine at no cost to you. Michigan residents who don't have health insurance or have health plans that do not cover the cost can reach out to a health care provider or local pharmacy participating in the CDC's [Bridge Access Program](#), their local health department or visit [Vaccines.gov](#) for additional information on ways to obtain a free vaccine. Children eligible for the [Vaccines for Children](#) program also may receive the vaccine from a provider enrolled in that program. Find a vaccine location near you, including Bridge Access Providers, visit [Vaccine Finder](#).

Visit [Michigan.gov/flu](#) for more information or visit [Vaccinate.org](#) to find answers to your vaccine questions.

If you have Medicaid and you are approaching your renewal, make sure to turn in your paperwork on time to avoid any delays in coverage. Visit [Michigan.gov/MedicaidRenewal](#) for more information.

To learn more about seasonal respiratory illnesses and how to protect yourself, visit [Michigan.gov/COVIDFluRSV](#).

[Vaccines and Respiratory Illness Press Release.pdf](#)

[Fall 2023 Vaccines.pdf](#)

[Fall and Winter Virus Season.pdf](#)



Immunization Recommendations During Pregnancy Webinar

Join the National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID), American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG), and Society for Maternal-Fetal Medicine (SMFM) for a discussion on recommended vaccination during pregnancy. Speakers will discuss Tdap, COVID-19, influenza, and recent updates in respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) immunization recommendations on **Thursday, November 2nd at 12:00pm**. NFID Medical Director **Robert H. Hopkins, Jr., MD**, will moderate the discussion with presentations by NFID Director **Kevin A. Ault, MD**, Professor and Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Western Michigan University Homer Stryker MD School of Medicine; **Naima Joseph, MD, MPH**, Assistant Professor, Division of Maternal Fetal Medicine, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Boston University School of Medicine and Boston Medical Center; and NFID Director **Flor M. Muñoz, MD, MSc**, Associate Professor of Pediatrics, Baylor College of Medicine.



At the conclusion of this activity, participants will be able to:

- Explain current US recommendations for immunizations recommended during pregnancy
- Discuss disparities in vaccination rates among pregnant women in the US

Identify strategies for implementation of US recommendations for maternal immunization into practice

[Register Now](#)

There is no fee to participate in this activity, but pre-registration is required*

*Participation in the live activity may be limited

On-demand recording will be available to all registered attendees following the webinar

The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases (NFID) is accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

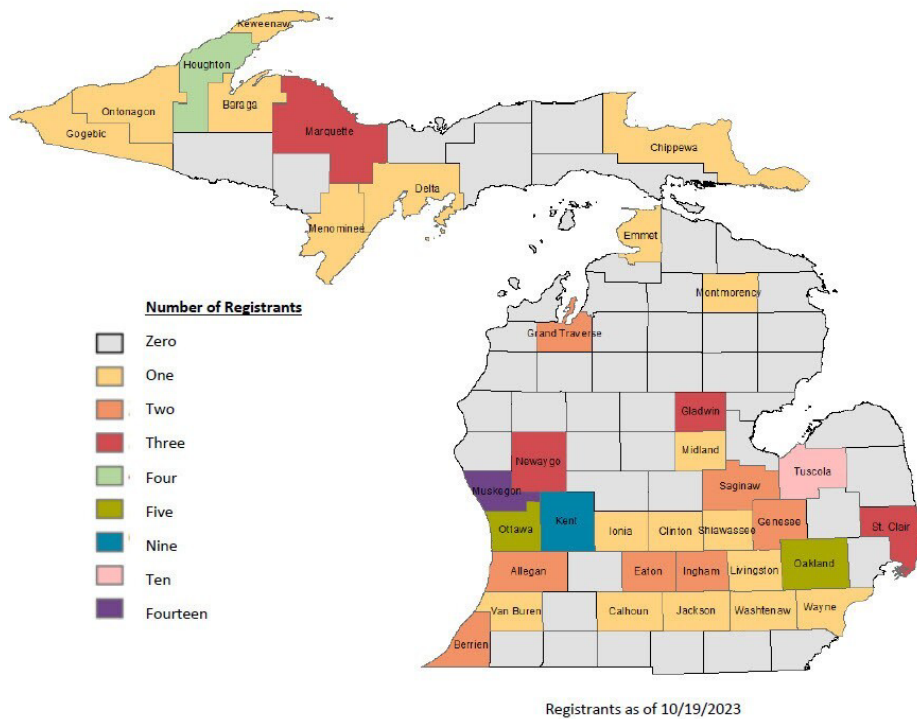
NFID designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.25 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*[™]. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity

Infant Safe Sleep Month Virtual 5K Your Way

October is [Infant Safe Sleep Month](#) in Michigan and **there is still time to participate in the Infant Safe Sleep Month Virtual 5K Your Way**. To participate, complete a 5K run/walk or any other activity for at least 30 minutes (bike, swim, dance, chair aerobics—just move) during the month of October 2023. Participate your way, at your pace, in a way that's fun and comfortable for you. Help color the map with at least one registered participant from every county in the state. [Learn more about the Virtual 5K Your Way and sign up today!](#)

Have you already participated? Help raise awareness by sharing your activity on social media using the hashtag #MIMoves4safesleep or sending pictures to MDHHS-InfantSafeSleep@michigan.gov.

Michigan's Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month Virtual 5K Map of Registrants, October 2023



Good night. Sleep tight. Sleep safe.

Learn more about the safest way for babies to sleep at michigan.gov/safesleep



October Awareness Months & Holidays for Cause

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Hispanic Heritage Month | (continued) |
| ADHD Awareness Month | October 1 |
| LGBTQ+ History Month | October 1 |
| Breast Cancer Awareness Month | October 1 |
| National Book Month | October 1 |
| Socktober | October 1 |
| World Vegetarian Day | October 1 |
| Kindness To Animals Day | October 4 |
| World Teachers Day | October 5 |
| World Sight Day | 2nd Thursday |
| World Homeless Day | October 10 |
| National Coming Out Day | October 11 |
| World Food Day | October 16 |
| Spirit Day | 3rd Thursday |

Spirit Day



Show your support for diversity and inclusion on Spirit Day, which takes place on the third Thursday of October! This day was created in 2010 as a way to stand against bullying and show solidarity with LGBTQ+ youth who experience high rates of bullying and harassment. It's also a chance to celebrate everyone's unique identities, cultures, and backgrounds. Show your pride by wearing purple or sharing your story on social media – no matter how you choose to participate, it will help spread the message that we are all equal. Together, we can create a more inclusive world!

Why Spirit Day is Important

Spirit Day raises awareness of LGBTQ+ issues

The observance of Spirit Day encourages recognition and support for members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and queer/questioning (LGBTQ+) community. By wearing purple and inviting co-workers and friends to participate, more people are made aware that this is an issue worth fighting for.

Spirit Day promotes inclusion & acceptance

Spirit day creates a safe and inclusive environment for members of the LGBTQ+ community. It's an important reminder that everyone deserves respect and to be accepted for who they are, regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation.

Spirit Day stands against anti-LGBTQ+ violence

It's no secret that LGBTQ+ people still face discrimination and prejudice in many parts of the world. By participating in Spirit Day, we're sending a strong message that anyone - regardless of their gender or sexuality - should be treated equally and with dignity.

Additional Spirit Resources

[National LGBTQ Task Force](#)

[History of Spirit Day](#)

<http://glaad.org/spiritday> and [@glaad](#) across all social media.

Upcoming State of Michigan (SOM) Holidays

November 10
November 23 and 24
December 22 and 25
December 29

Previously Released MIHP Updates

To review any previously released MIHP Weekly Updates, they can be found by [visiting the MIHP webpage Michigan.gov/MIHP](http://Michigan.gov/MIHP).

Bi-Weekly Update Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MIHP Weekly Update, [please submit your ideas here](#).

MDHHS Publications

[Sign up here to receive program updates and communications.](#)

Coordinator Directory

Please click here to access the most recent Coordinator Directory. [MIHP Coordinator Directory](#)

Our communication for the Maternal Infant Health Program has been streamlined to a single email address and phone number. Please forward all emails to MIHP@michigan.gov. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.