

MIHP Biweekly Update

August 14, 2023



Maternal Infant Health Program

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Farewell from Chelsea Low Darling

It is with immense gratitude to MIHP providers statewide and the MDHHS MIHP team that I am announcing my transition to a new role within the Division of Maternal and Infant Health. I cannot fully express my appreciation for the experience, growth and support I have received during my six years as a Public Health Consultant with this program. This role has been fulfilling in many ways and I have been honored to learn from and work alongside the MDHHS MIHP team.

It is with great difficulty that I made the decision to accept a new position and I will continue to work toward the shared vision that all babies, families, and communities in Michigan are healthy and thriving.

My final day in this position is August 18th and I am working to ensure a smooth transition as I begin my new role as the Statewide Doula Specialist. I will sincerely miss you all and am grateful for the relationships we have built over the years.

Thank you all for your continued dedication to the families of Michigan and all that you do.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Low Darling

Mark Your Calendar: August COP Webinar

The next Community of Practice (COP) webinar will be on Wednesday, August 23rd from 1:00pm - 2:30pm. This month's topic will be "Preventing Adverse Childhood Experiences - Reflections on the PACE Pilot and POC2," presented by Julie Anne Moore and Brenda Dietrich, Research Scientists from the Michigan Public Health Institute (MPHI)

[Click HERE to register for the webinar.](#)

Reminder: MDHHS CHW Policy Public Comment Opportunity

As noted in the MIHP Important Update that was distributed on July 25th, the proposed MDHHS Community Health Worker (CHW) Policy is open for public comment through **August 18th**. We encourage you to provide thoughtful feedback on the policy and how it can impact home visiting.

[Click here to review the proposed CHW Policy](#)

Adjusted Professional Visit Progress Notes

An updated *Maternal Professional Visit Progress Note* and *Infant Professional Visit Progress Note* will be posted and available for use on August 15, 2023. The location of visit section was adapted to allow for both the location of the visit (or where the visit would have occurred if provided via telehealth) and whether the visit was conducted via telehealth or telephone. This will allow for two boxes to be checked to align with billing requirements. The notes, while available for use immediately, will be required for use on all visits conducted on/or after January 1, 2024. This will also allow programming time for EMR systems.

[Maternal Professional Visit Progress Note MDHHS - 5636.docx](#)

[Infant Professional Visit Progress Note - MDHHS- 5635.docx](#)



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Governor Whitmer declares August as Breastfeeding Month

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 7, 2023

CONTACT: Lynn Sutfin, 517-241-2112, SutfinL1@michigan.gov

Governor Whitmer declares August as Breastfeeding Month Aug. 8-14 - *Indigenous Milk Medicine Week* Aug. 15-21-*Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week* Aug. 25-31 - *Black Breastfeeding Week* Sept. 5-11 - *Lactancia Latina*

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan is committed to encouraging a strong foundation for life by supporting breastfeeding/chestfeeding parents for the first year of their child’s life and beyond. As part of this effort, [Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is declaring August 2023 as Breastfeeding Month.](#)

“Breastfeeding can protect babies against allergies, sickness and diseases like diabetes and certain cancers,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, MDHHS chief medical executive. “Michigan is committed to helping breastfeeding parents reach their goals through community-based support such as doulas and WIC peer counselors to help diversify lactation support and increase breastfeeding rates in local communities across the state.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends breastfeeding up to 2 years old. Human milk feeding results in improved health for infants, children and parents, including preventing breast and ovarian cancers, serious colds and ear and throat infections, gastrointestinal tract infections, necrotizing enterocolitis, sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, atopic dermatitis, and eczema, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes and leukemia – many conditions which excessively impact Black, Brown and Indigenous people.

Although 88.4% of Michigan families start breastfeeding, the difference between white non-Hispanic initiation (98.8%) and Black, non-Hispanics initiation (76.2%) highlights the barriers that impact families of color. ([PRAMS 2021](#)). Some of those barriers include lack of access to supportive health care and childcare providers, and lack of paid work leave that leads to early weaning. Additionally, there are fewer lactation professionals from communities of color.

The State of Michigan Women, Infants and Children program is celebrating National Breastfeeding Month with the theme "[Into Every Drop.](#)" WIC supports breastfeeding in the following ways:

- Free, unlimited access to lactation consultants and breastfeeding peer counselors.
- Training to all WIC staff to support prenatal and breastfeeding families.
- Breastfeeding clients get more WIC foods than non-breastfeeding clients, including canned fish, and are able to stay on the program longer.
- At 6 months, breastfed babies receive infant meats and more fruits and vegetables.
- Many WIC clinics offer telehealth appointments.
- WIC offers a breastfeeding warmline available seven days a week, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at 833-MIWICBF (833-649-4223).

For more information, visit the [Michigan Breastfeeding Network](#).

- [2023 Breastfeeding Awareness Month NR.pdf](#)



Back to School Checklist: Vaccinations Up to Date

It is the season of “back-to-school” checklists, and there is one task that is important to cross off: a checkup to ensure children are caught up on their routine vaccinations. After a summer of fun, routine vaccines can help make sure children’s immune systems are well prepared to protect them from serious vaccine preventable diseases.

The [latest data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#) shows that 93% of kindergartners in the U.S. got their recommended routine vaccinations. While the overwhelming majority of children are getting their vaccines, the data also shows a 1%-point drop in vaccination coverage for the second year in a row. That means at least 250,000 kindergartners may lack important protection from preventable childhood diseases. **Now is a great time to catch up!**

Use the resources below to ensure your community is ready for school, by checking “vaccinations are up to date” off their back-to-school list.

- [Catch Up on Vaccines Toolkit](#)
 - (I Vaccinate, password: ivaccinate)
- [Free Immunization Posters for Offices \(MDHHS/I Vaccinate\)](#)
- [National Immunization Awareness Month Graphics - Spanish \(CDC\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Vaccine Toolkit \(AAP\)](#)
- [CDC Immunization Schedule](#)



Maternal Health Equity and Well-being Learning Series

Start Early hosted a 3-part learning series focused on Maternal Health and Well-being. The webinar recordings and related resources [are now available on their website](#). The three topics are:

1. Physical Recovery, Anticipatory Guidance, and Maternal Health Warning Signs
2. Maternal Mental Health and Self Care
3. Building & Mobilizing Support

This series is for anyone who provides care and service to birthing people and new families, with particular emphasis on home visitors, home visiting supervisors, birth justice advocates, doulas, and health care providers.

National Breastfeeding Month Events and Learning Opportunities

Throughout the month of August, a variety of breastfeeding-focused events and learning opportunities are being offered in recognition of [National Breastfeeding Month](#). Events focused on each weekly observance can also be found at the links below.

- National Breastfeeding Month Weekly Observances:
 - August 1-7: [World Breastfeeding Week](#)
 - August 8-14: [Indigenous Milk Medicine Week](#)
 - August 15-21: [Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week](#)
 - August 25-31: [Black Breastfeeding Week](#)
 - September 5-11: [Semana de La Lactancia Latina](#)

Consider exploring these opportunities to learn more about breastfeeding, health equity, and the different ways that we can all support Michigan's breastfeeding families.

- **Michigan Breastfeeding Network – Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars**
 - Michigan Breastfeeding Network presents **free Great Lakes Breastfeeding Webinars** that launch on the third Tuesday of each month at 8am EST. **Webinars are available to watch on-demand for up to 1 year** after the initial air date. **The webinars center Black and Indigenous presenters with a variety of topics covered related to human milk feeding.** Recent webinar topics include:
 - Fatherhood Empowerment: Beneficial for Everyone
 - Human Milk and Cannabis Series: Interpreting Hale's Guidance on Lactation and Marijuana, CBD Oils, and Other Non-Inhaled Marijuana Sources
 - The Michigan Prison Doula Initiative's Approach to Lactation Support
 - **Learn more and register for the webinars at [this link](#).**
- **United States Lactation Consultant Association – How to use the PUMP Act to Make a Difference for Working Parents**
 - In celebration of National Breastfeeding Month, **this webinar on 8/22/23** will share why the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections (PUMP) for Nursing Mothers Act was needed, what it requires, and how you can support working parents to secure time and space to pump breast milk during the workday. **The presentation will feature real stories from working moms, practical tips, and resources to support postpartum families transitioning back to the workforce.** Learn more and register [here](#).
- **American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) – What's New with the 2022 American Academy of Pediatrics Breastfeeding Policy?**
 - This 1-hour webinar was created to highlight changes in the AAP Policy, [Breastfeeding and the Use of Human Milk](#). The webinar is available on-demand and can be accessed [here](#).
- **Michigan Breastfeeding Network – Virtual 5K**
 - In honor of National Breastfeeding Month, [Michigan Breastfeeding Network \(MIBFN\)](#) is hosting a virtual 5K run/walk/move. After signing up, participants will receive an exclusive design t-shirt and can participate in the 5K at any point during the month of August. Register for the Virtual 5K [here](#).

Infant Safe Sleep Brochure - Language Translations Available

The *Baby, We've Got Your Back* brochure is available in many languages: Arabic, Bengali, Burmese, Dari, French, Kinyarwanda, Nepali, Pashto, Spanish, and Swahili. You can access the translations on the [Baby, We've Got Your Back Resources page](#). You can access [other resources](#) for families on the Safe Sleep website. You can order many of these items for free from the [MDHHS Clearinghouse](#).

Good night. Sleep tight. Sleep safe.

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



RSV Prevention in Infants

The [Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices](#) (ACIP) met on [August 3](#) and recommended routine use of the monoclonal antibody product nirsevimab (trade name: Beyfortus, Sanofi) for the prevention of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI) in all infants younger than age 8 months during their first RSV season and in some children at high risk of severe disease during their second RSV season. Nirsevimab received [FDA approval](#) on July 17. [Presentation slides](#) are available online. Immediately after the meeting, CDC issued a [media release](#) announcing the director had adopted the ACIP recommendations, a step that initiates processes related to insurance coverage and implementation. Highlights of the meeting are provided below.

RSV Epidemiology

RSV is a common cause of respiratory illness and the leading cause of hospitalization of infants in the United States. Most (68%) infants are infected in the first year of life, and nearly all (97%) are infected by age 2 years. Of those infants with RSV infection, 2–3% require hospitalization, with an estimated 58,000–80,000 U.S. children younger than age 5 years hospitalized annually. RSV infection typically causes mild upper respiratory symptoms, but can also cause bronchiolitis and pneumonia. Severe disease is most likely in very young infants and older infants born prematurely or with serious chronic diseases. Rates of severe disease are also 4–10 times greater in American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) children than in the general population. Approximately 100–300 children younger than age 5 years die from RSV each year. The RSV season typically occurs during October through March. The timing and severity of the season varies from year to year and between locations, particularly in areas outside the contiguous United States, such as Alaska, Hawaii, and overseas U.S. territories.

Nirsevimab Use

Nirsevimab is a long-acting monoclonal antibody product that provides passive immunization to the recipient for at least 150 days after administration. The pre-formed antibodies do not stimulate the immune system like an active immunization (vaccine). The rate of RSV-associated hospitalizations among recipients in clinical trials was 83% lower than among placebo recipients, and the rate of severe disease was 76% lower. Side effects were rare, with injection site reactions and rash reported in fewer than 1% of recipients. Nirsevimab is administered intramuscularly (IM), with three dosing options based upon the child's age and weight. Timing of nirsevimab administration is seasonal. Infants born during (or shortly before) the RSV season should be immunized within the first week of life (either before discharge from the delivery hospital or as an outpatient). Infants younger than 8 months of age who are born outside the season should receive nirsevimab shortly before, or early in, their first RSV season, and may be immunized when receiving other routine live or non-live vaccinations. Infants weighing less than 5 kg receive a 50 mg dose, and those weighing 5 or more kilograms receive a 100 mg dose. ACIP separately recommended a 200 mg dose of nirsevimab (given as two 100 mg injections) for children age 8 through 19 months entering their second RSV season and at high risk of severe disease. Those recommended to receive nirsevimab in their second RSV season include those currently recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics to receive palivizumab, a different monoclonal antibody that requires monthly administration. In addition, immunization was recommended for AI/AN children, who, as a population, are at high risk of hospitalization with RSV. Nirsevimab is supplied in pre-filled 50 mg and 100 mg syringes that are stored at 2°–8°C, like refrigerated vaccines. The retail cost will be \$495 per dose for 50 mg or 100 mg prefilled syringes. CDC will publish additional clinical considerations and professional educational materials in coming weeks.

Unique Implementation Considerations

The ACIP decision to include nirsevimab in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program will facilitate access for all infants, regardless of insurance status. However, some implementation challenges remain because the product is not a traditional vaccine. Some jurisdictions may have different scope of practice regulations related to who is allowed to administer it. Seasonal administration will require planning and training. Payment issues will need to be addressed to facilitate its use in birthing hospitals. There may be issues to resolve in electronic health record system documentation and reporting to state immunization information systems.

ACIP Vote

ACIP made two separate and unanimous votes to recommend nirsevimab for two groups:

- Infants younger than age 8 months born during or entering their first RSV season should receive one dose (50 mg for infants weighing less than 5 kg, 100 mg for those 5 kg or more)
- Children age 8 months through 19 months who are at increased risk of severe RSV disease and entering their second RSV season – one dose (200 mg)

The Committee also unanimously approved including nirsevimab in the VFC program.



IZ Express Weekly news
from Immunize.org

Delivered via email every Wednesday, *IZ Express* keeps you informed about new and updated vaccine recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and new vaccine licensures by the Food and Drug Administration. You'll read about newly posted Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) and their translations, educational materials from Immunize.org, and the latest resources from CDC and other organizations.

Upcoming State of Michigan (SOM) Holidays

September 4
November 10
November 23 and 24
December 22 and 25
December 29

August: Awareness Months & Holidays for Causes



**NATIONAL
NONPROFIT
DAY**

National Nonprofit Day is commemorated on August 17 each year to recognize nonprofit organizations' ongoing efforts to serve the local community. If you've ever volunteered, you're well aware of the significance of these charitable organizations.

Nonprofits throughout the country work to promote awareness and offer assistance to individuals who otherwise would not be able to afford it. Their activities contribute to the shaping of our society and provide hope for a brighter future.

We all contribute in some manner, whether it's by volunteering, giving, or just spreading the word about a nonprofit. In 2017, Americans donated more than \$400 billion to a variety of charity organizations. What a great example of teamwork!

National Black Business Month	August 1
World Lung Cancer Day	August 1
Emancipation Day	August 1
Esther Day	August 3
National Nonprofit Day	August 17
Women's Equality Day	August 26
Anniversary of the march on Washington	August 28
National Grief Awareness Day	August 30

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.](#)

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.