

MIHP Bi-Weekly Update

September 26, 2022



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Reminder! COP Webinar on Tuesday

The next MIHP Community of Practice webinar is Tuesday, September 27th, from 1:00pm – 2:30pm. Quess Derman, MSW, and Sue Montei, BSN, WHNP-BC from the MDHHS Reproductive Health Unit will present on "The Family Planning Program and Contraceptive Counseling."

[Please click here to register.](#)

CareConnect360 Demo Sessions This Week!

As a reminder, MDHHS MIHP is offering three demo sessions about CareConnect360 (CC360). These sessions will briefly introduce the functionality of CC360 and share information about the application to be a pilot provider. All demo sessions will present the same content and are intended as a brief snapshot of current and planned CC360 functionality. Please use the link below and share this invitation with additional MIHP staff.

Demo Sessions and Meeting Link

Below are the three demo sessions to choose from:

1. Tuesday, September 27, 2022 at 2:30pm – 3:00pm
 - o **This session occurs immediately following the September Community of Practice.**
2. Wednesday, September 28, 2022 at 10:00am – 10:30am
3. Thursday, September 29, 2022 at 12:00pm – 12:30pm

The **same link** will be used for each session. The link and call-in information are available below:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 238 688 356 079

Passcode: WcUhmj

[Download Teams](#) | [Join on the web](#)

Or call in (audio only): [+1 248-509-0316](#)

Phone Conference ID: 325 049 776#

[Find a local number](#) | [Reset PIN](#)

[Learn More](#) | [Meeting options](#)

New: Quality Assessment Resources for MIHP Providers

A new document and a new webpage have been developed to support MIHP providers in understanding the Quality Assessment (QA) process. This website includes information on the process and benefits, the tool and domains which guide the QA, as well as questions and answers. This website will be enhanced with additional updates as the QA progresses. Find these resources here:

- New MIHP QA Document: [Overview and Benefits](#)
- MIHP QA Website: [Quality Assessment \(michigan.gov\)](#)

Opportunity to Customize the MIHP Family Information Sheet

Would you like your agency's contact information on the MIHP Family Information Sheet? MDHHS MIHP is now able to support customization of contact information only. This modification must be performed by the MDHHS MIHP team. See the example below of the area that may be customized upon request:

The image shows a section of a document titled "LEARN MORE AND ENROLL". It contains a list of fields for customization: Local MIHP Name, Phone, Areas served, Website, and Social Media. A QR code is present, with a callout box stating: "A custom QR code can be included if desired. In the request, agencies must specify the URL preferred." Below the list is a disclaimer in English: "The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not exclude from participation in, deny benefits of, or discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's eligibility." Below the disclaimer are two rows for language options: Spanish and Arabic. The Spanish row contains the text: "ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 517-284-1018 (TTY: 711)." The Arabic row contains the text: "ملحوظة: إذا كنت تتحدث أحدى اللغات، فإن خدمات المساعدة اللغوية متوفرة لك بالمجان. اتصل برقم 517-284-1018 (رقم هاتف الصم والبكم: TTY: 711)." At the bottom left of the image is the text "MDHHS-Pub-1552 (7-22)".

LEARN MORE AND ENROLL

- Local MIHP Name: **Your agency name here**
- Phone: **Your phone number here**
- Areas served: **Your service area (county/counties)**
- Website: **Your website here, if applicable**
- Social Media: **Your social media here, if applicable**

This contact information represents a local MIHP provider. To see a statewide MIHP locator and learn about the impact of MIHP across Michigan, visit www.Michigan.gov/MIHP.

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not exclude from participation in, deny benefits of, or discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's eligibility.

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MDHHS-Pub-1552 (7-22)

If you are interested in a customized version of the MIHP Family Information Sheet, follow the steps outlined on the electronic [Request for Customization of MIHP Family Information Sheet](#). This guidance will also be maintained on the MIHP Policy and Operations website.

After submission, please allow up to 15 business days for MDHHS MIHP to review and provide the customized version as a PDF via email.

IT Update - Required Training Modules Hosted by The Institute

This is an update to a Bi-Weekly Update entry on 7/18/22 regarding lingering technical difficulties in the two modules hosted by the *Institute for Family Professionals*. Fortunately, the following issues have **now been resolved**:

- [Moving to Action: Advocacy, Referrals and Goal Setting](#): Three embedded videos were not able to be viewed. This is now **fully resolved, and all three videos are accessible**.
- [Family Partnerships that Support Change and Healing](#): A video was referenced but not embedded on the slides for “Risk Factors” and “Prenatal Exposure to Harmful Substances.” This is now **fully resolved, and the videos are accessible**.

Additionally, some general nuances had been identified such as challenges with advancing slides. This does not appear to be module specific. If staff experience these challenges, review the information below to improve functionality:

- Use a different browser. These modules typically **work best in Chrome**. However, success has been noted in Edge as well.
- Other recommendations to resolve the issue:
 - Refresh the page
 - Use the dropdown menu within the module to manually select the next slide’s title
 - Log out of the Institute website and close out the browser. Re-open, log in, and attempt again.

For module-specific issues related to missing content (such as the video issue above), feel free to report issues to the Institute via their [Contact Us](#) page.

Thank you to all providers who identified the issues above and contributed to the resolution.

MDHHS Press Release

September 19, 2022

Gov. Whitmer Announces Expansion of Access to Birth Control, Pharmacists Can Partner with Doctors to Directly Prescribe Hormonal Birth Control

Birth control will be more accessible, make it so women can go directly to pharmacy for contraception

Today Governor Gretchen Whitmer announced that pharmacists in the State of Michigan are eligible to prescribe hormonal birth control in partnership with doctors. This action from the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) offers women easier access to birth control and provides them greater freedom to plan their families. It is the result of the governor's executive directive in May instructing state departments and agencies to identify and assess opportunities to increase protections for reproductive health care in anticipation of *Roe v. Wade* being overturned.

"Today's action clarifies that Michigan pharmacists with delegated authority can prescribe self-administered hormonal birth control—oral contraceptives, the patch, and the ring—expanding access to birth control for women across Michigan and ensuring that they can plan their own future on their own terms," said **Governor Whitmer**. "As reproductive freedom is under attack across the nation, we are using every tool in our toolbox here in Michigan to protect women. Access to birth control is critical to a woman's ability to plan her family and chart her own destiny. We are taking action to guarantee that Michigan women have the right to easily make reproductive health care decisions that are best for them."

"This expansion allows for broader access to certain forms of birth control," said **Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Chief Medical Executive of the State of Michigan**. "Nearly 30% of U.S. women of childbearing age have reported difficulty obtaining or refilling birth control prescriptions. Expanded access to hormonal contraceptives provides flexibility for women to manage their reproductive health outside their regularly scheduled health care appointments."

Guidelines on Self-Administered Hormonal Birth Control

Under a new interpretative statement issued by LARA, licensed physicians may delegate to pharmacists the ability to prescribe self-administered, hormonal contraceptives in most circumstances. Pharmacists are well-qualified to prescribe oral contraceptives, the patch, and the ring because their education and training includes a detailed understanding of the contents, impacts, and effects of drugs on the human body.

Today's statement clarifies eligibility for pharmacists, making it easier for women to access hormonal contraception and providing a template agreement to make the delegation easier. The action allows pharmacists to opt into this program and does not require pharmacists to prescribe hormonal contraception if they do not want to.

LARA encourages all physicians and pharmacists to review their individual circumstances and practices and speak with their respective attorneys to ensure that adequate procedures and drug protocols are provided and the scope of delegation is appropriate under the circumstances. Additionally, LARA's Bureau of Professional Licensing staff will

review prescription and dispensing practices during their routine pharmacy inspections and investigate any violations of Michigan's Public Health Code.

Governor Whitmer's Reproductive Health Executive Directive

Governor Whitmer's executive directive 2022-05 instructed departments not to cooperate with or assist authorities of any state in any investigation or proceeding against anyone for obtaining, providing, or assisting someone else to obtain or provide reproductive healthcare that is legal where the health care is provided.

State of Michigan departments and agencies must also have identified and assessed potential opportunities to increase protections for reproductive health care, consistent with applicable law. They must have detailed how they can increase choices available to protect mental, physical, and reproductive health; safeguard the privacy of individuals seeking care; and assure the safety of reproductive healthcare providers.

Additionally, departments and agencies that communicate directly with the public on reproductive issues must have provided accessible, comprehensive information about the current cost and availability of reproductive care and increase public awareness about the availability and safety of contraception.

Governor Whitmer's Abortion Lawsuit

In April, Governor Whitmer filed a lawsuit and used the authority of the Executive Message to ask the Michigan Supreme Court to immediately resolve whether Michigan's Constitution protects the right to abortion. Governor Whitmer's legal action represents the first time a governor has filed a lawsuit to protect a woman's right to abortion since the U.S. Supreme Court signaled its willingness to consider overturning or circumscribing the federal right to an abortion.

The lawsuit asks the court to recognize a constitutional right to an abortion under the Due Process Clause of the Michigan Constitution. It also asks the court to stop enforcement of the 1931 Michigan abortion ban. The abortion ban violates Michigan's due process clause, which provides a right to privacy and bodily autonomy that is violated by the state's near-total criminal ban of abortion. It also violates Michigan's Equal Protection Clause due to the way the ban denies women equal rights because the law was adopted to reinforce antiquated notions of the proper role for women in society.

Governor Whitmer's Actions to Protect Reproductive Freedom

- **April 7:** [Filed a lawsuit](#) to ask the Michigan Supreme Court to immediately resolve whether Michigan's constitution protects the right to an abortion.
- **April 7:** Penned an [op-ed in the Detroit Free Press](#) explaining her action and highlighting that 7 in 10 Michiganders support the rights affirmed by Roe.
- **May 3:** Joined 16 other states to urge the United States Senate to pass the [Women's Health Protection Act](#) and enshrine Roe's protections in federal law.

- **May 9:** Penned an [op-ed in the New York Times](#) explaining why she isn't waiting for Congress to act and urging fellow pro-choice governors, state representatives, private businesses, and citizens to take action to protect reproductive rights.
- **May 25:** [Signed an executive directive](#) instructing state of Michigan departments and agencies to identify and assess opportunities to increase protections for reproductive healthcare, such as contraception. The executive directive also instructs departments not to cooperate with or assist authorities of any state in any investigation or proceeding against anyone for obtaining, providing, or assisting someone else to obtain or provide reproductive healthcare that is legal where the health care is provided.
- **June 23:** Launched a [new consumer website](#) to educate Michiganders about the availability of no-cost contraception with most insurance plans.
- **June 24:** [On the day of the Dobbs decision](#), filed a motion urging the Court to immediately consider her lawsuit.
- **June 27:** Followed up with an [additional notice](#) to the Court urging them to immediately consider her lawsuit.
- **June 29:** Sent a [letter to Michigan's insurers](#) urging them to take steps to ensure Michiganders have coverage for reproductive health care to the fullest extent possible under current coverage.
- **July 6:** Joined with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to launch a public effort to educate Michiganders and health care providers about the difference between [emergency contraception and medication abortion](#). The public effort will disseminate information about the differences between medication abortion and emergency contraception to all local health departments throughout Michigan, healthcare providers throughout the state, and the public.
- **July 7:** [Called on the federal government](#) to clarify and protect Michiganders' right to cross the US-Canada border to seek reproductive health care or prescription medication including medication abortion.
- **July 11:** Urged President Biden to make [birth control](#) available over the counter without a prescription.
- **July 13:** Signed an executive order [refusing to extradite](#) women or health care providers who come to Michigan seeking reproductive freedom.
- **July 22:** Called on FDA to [reduce barriers](#) to medication abortion.
- **August 1:** Secured a [restraining order](#) blocking certain county prosecutors from enforcing the 1931 abortion ban after a court cleared a path for them to do so earlier on the same day.
- **August 3:** Went to court to defend the [restraining order](#) and won.

- **August 4:** Filed [renewed request](#) with Michigan Supreme Court to protect right to abortion.
- **August 4:** Submitted [legal brief](#) to prevent enforcement of extreme 1931 abortion ban.
- **August 10:** Filed motion for a preliminary injunction against 1931 abortion ban in Oakland County Circuit Court.
- **August 19:** Won a [preliminary injunction](#) against the 1931 abortion ban, protecting legal abortion in Michigan until the Michigan Supreme Court takes up the governor's lawsuit or Michiganders vote to protect women's fundamental rights.
- **August 29:** Expanded [access to birth control](#) to 200,000 Michiganders covered by MPSERS non-Medicare plans.
- **August 31:** Called on big tech to [protect data and digital privacy](#) in light of report of law enforcement using personal health data to go after women seeking reproductive care.

October is Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month & SIDS Awareness Month

Get ready! October is [Infant Safe Sleep Awareness Month](#) in Michigan and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) Awareness Month nationally.

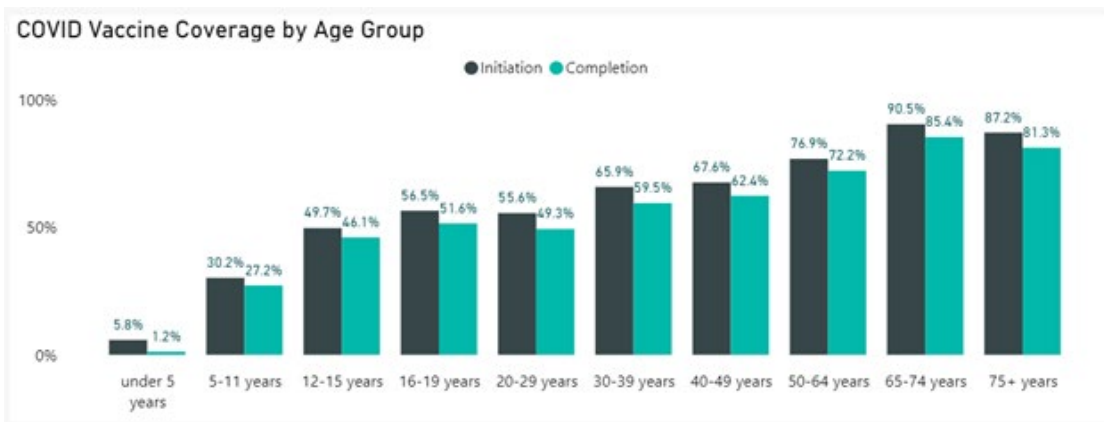
The Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development hosted the [July SIDS Awareness Month Planning Webinar](#) to share the focus of this year's observance, provide an introduction to the educational activities, and more. You can also use the [SIDS Awareness Month Toolkit](#) to plan activities.

How will you promote infant safe sleep in October? If you'd like to share your plans or want help in planning an activity, email the Infant Safe Sleep Program at MDHHS-InfantSafeSleep@michigan.gov. Stay tuned for more ways to promote infant safe sleep in October, and throughout the year!



COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for Michigan's Youngest Children

Since COVID-19 vaccines were authorized in June for children ages 6 months to 5 years, the overall uptake rate has been exceptionally low—especially when compared to other age groups (see graph of recent data from the [Michigan COVID-19 Dashboard](#)). For additional context, 11 weeks after COVID-19 vaccines were authorized for children 5-11 years, about 25% of Michigan children in this age group had received at least one dose. It has now been a little over 11 weeks since COVID-19 vaccines were first authorized for children 6 months to 5 years, and **less than 6%** of children in Michigan under age 5 have received at least one dose. Thus, there is a need to continue promoting access to **evidence-based information and resources about COVID-19 vaccines for all families, including those with infants and young children.**



Please consider the following resources to help promote COVID vaccination among children:

Websites, Handouts, and Toolkits

- [MDHHS: Kids COVID Vaccine Resources](#)
- [NRC-RIM: Conversation Guide: Pediatric Vaccinations](#)
- [AAP: COVID-19 and Kids: How mRNA Vaccines Work](#)
- [Greater than COVID Video Series](#)
- [CDC: Equity in Childhood COVID-19 Vaccination](#)
- [HHS: Resources about COVID-19 Vaccinations for Children 6 months & Older](#)

Webinars and Trainings

- [MDHHS: New Pediatric COVID-19 Vaccines Update](#)
- [Immunize Colorado: Strategies for Addressing Parents' Concerns & Questions about Vaccines for Children](#)
- [National Head Start Association: COVID-19 Impact on Infants and Toddlers](#)
- [AAP-OC: COVID-19 Vaccine for Children: What Parents Need to Know](#)

September is Sickle Cell and Infant Mortality Awareness Month

From our partners at the National Institute for Children's Health Quality (NICHQ):

September is [Sickle Cell Awareness Month and National Infant Mortality Awareness Month](#)! At NICHQ, we're committed to ensuring that children and their families have access to high-quality care, resources, and support. [Check out NICHQ's campaigns](#) for discussion guides, infographics, toolkits, webinars, and more to support providers and healthcare professionals in providing optimal care.



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 email to MIHP@michigan.gov. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447)**. Thank you.