MIHP Homepage

MIHP Biweekly Update

August 10, 2026

Michigan Department of Health & Human Services

Maternal Infant Health Program

- Mark Your Calendar: September COP
- Home Sweet Safe Home: Protecting Providers in the Field Training
- August is National Immunization Awareness Month
- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Governor Whitmer declares August as Breastfeeding Month
- WIC participants now able to use benefits online at Meijer stores First retailer in Michigan to accept WIC benefits for online grocery orders
- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Michigan WIC Program increases income threshold, more families may now qualify
- Webinar Registration - Moving Fatherhood into Authentic Engagement
- FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS updates guidance on cyclosporiasis outbreak regarding lettuce and salad greens
- Upcoming State of Michigan (SOM) Holidays
- Previously Released MIHP Updates
- Biweekly Update Topic Submission
- MDHHS Publications
- Coordinator Directory

Mark Your Calendar: September COP

The September Community of Practice webinar will be on Wednesday, September 9, from 1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Topic: High Blood Pressure During the Perinatal Period, presented by Michelle Byrd, PhD, MPH MM, RDH, Cardiovascular Health and Obesity Epidemiologist, Lifecourse Epidemiology and Genomics Division Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

CLICK HERE to register for the September COP Webinar!

Home Sweet Safe Home: Protecting Providers in the Field Training

*Every home visit is unique, and being prepared matters! Join us for **Home Sweet Safe Home: Protecting Providers in the Field Training** to explore practical approaches for maintaining safety, building confidence, and navigating unexpected situations with professionalism and care.*

This interactive training will provide strategies for recognizing and responding to potential safety concerns, planning for a variety of field situations, and supporting your well-being.

Free Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered to eligible Community Health Workers, Nurses, and Social Workers. To receive CEUs, participants must attend the entire training and complete the required evaluation form.

☞ *Register for Home Sweet Home: Protecting Providers in the Field: Register Here*

Contact Angie at apearcy@mphi.org with questions about this training opportunity

August is National Immunization Awareness Month

National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observation each August, highlighting the importance of immunizations for people of all ages. As you prepare to celebrate NIAM, be sure to check out Immunize Kansas Coalition's (IKC) NIAM webpage. On the page you'll find IKC's NIAM campaign, Vaccinate Your Family's #FirstDayVax Campaign, and others!

Below, find a few resources to share throughout August to celebrate NIAM!

- National Immunization Awareness Month | IKC
- Vaccinate Your Family #FirstDayVax Campaign
- Get the Facts | Let's Get Real
- Vaccine Requirements and Recommendations Explained
- Webinar: Storytelling for Social Change: Shaping the Vaccine Narrative Hosted by Voices for Vaccines
    - Meeting Registration - Zoom

- Webinar: Understanding the HepB Birth Dose's Impact on Series Completion Amid Declining Infant HepB Vaccination Rates

    - Webinar Registration - Zoom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Governor Whitmer declares August as Breastfeeding Month

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 4, 2026

CONTACT: Laina Stebbins StebbinsL@michigan.gov

Governor Whitmer declares August as Breastfeeding Month

LANSING, Mich. – Michigan is committed to building a strong foundation for lifelong health by supporting breastfeeding as both a personal choice and a critical public health priority. As part of this effort, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer declared August 2026 as Breastfeeding Month. Breastfeeding Month also includes the following observances that celebrate and support breastfeeding across diverse communities:

- Aug. 1-7: World Breastfeeding Week.
- 8-14: Indigenous Milk Medicine Week.
- 15-21: Asian American, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander Breastfeeding Week.
- 22-24: Military Lactation Celebration.
- 25-31: Black Breastfeeding Week.
- 1-7: Workplace Lactation Week.
- 8-14: Latina/x Breastfeeding Week (Semana de La Lactancia Latina).
- 16-22: Deaf and Hard of Hearing Breastfeeding Week.

“Breastfeeding Month is an opportunity to recognize the important role breastfeeding can play in supporting the health and well-being of mothers and infants,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “Every family deserves access to accurate information, skilled lactation support and community resources that help them meet their infant feeding goals. By working together to reduce barriers and expand support across Michigan, we can help more families get the care and encouragement they need.”

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends exclusive breastfeeding for approximately 6 months after birth. The AAP additionally supports continued breastfeeding past this point, along with appropriate complementary foods, as long as mutually desired for 2 years or beyond. Breast milk provides numerous health benefits for infants, including a decrease in the risk of respiratory and ear infections, gastrointestinal infections, necrotizing enterocolitis, sudden infant death syndrome, asthma, atopic dermatitis, celiac disease, inflammatory bowel disease, obesity, Type 2 diabetes and certain childhood cancers. Breastfeeding also reduces the risk of breast and ovarian cancers, postpartum depression and cardiovascular disease for the breastfeeding woman — conditions that disproportionately affect Black, Brown and Indigenous people.

According to the World Health Organization, optimal breastfeeding practices could save the lives of more than 820,000 children under the age of five each year. Although approximately 87% of Michigan families start breastfeeding, the difference between white non-Hispanic initiation (90.3%) and Black, non-Hispanic initiation (78.6%) reflects systemic barriers that impact families of color. Additionally, limited access to support in and out of the health care system, lack of access to affordable, high-quality childcare and insufficient paid work leave further contribute to lower breastfeeding duration rates.

Michigan is working to remove these barriers and expand support through several initiatives:

- Educating health care providers on breastfeeding benefits and the history of lactation for Black families.
- Expanding access to breastfeeding support, including online resourcesand bedside, doula-led support.
- Partnering with and funding local and regional breastfeeding organizations.
- Increasing access to childcare by expanding the workforce and improving compensation.
- Providing breastfeeding education opportunities for clinicians and community-based organizations.

Michigan's Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program is celebrating National Breastfeeding Month with the theme, "Rooting for You." WIC supports breastfeeding families by offering:

- Free, unlimited access to lactation consultants and peer counselors via telehealth, phoneor in-person visits.
- Lactation training for all WIC staff to ensure consistent, knowledgeable support.
- A breastfeeding warmline availableseven days a week from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., at 833-MIWICBF (833-649-4223).

For more information on events and activities in Michigan for Breastfeeding Month, visit the Michigan Breastfeeding Network website.

- Breastfeeding Month 2026.pdf

WIC participants now able to use benefits online at Meijer stores First retailer in Michigan to accept WIC benefits for online grocery orders

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 28, 2026

CONTACT: Laina Stebbins, 517-241-2112, StebbinsL@michigan.gov

WIC participants now able to use benefits online at Meijer stores *First retailer in Michigan to accept WIC benefits for online grocery orders*

LANSING, Mich. – The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) announced that families participating in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) are now able to shop with their WIC benefits online at Meijer stores.

“WIC beneficiaries were already able to use their WIC cards for in-store shopping at Meijer and offering online shopping will make it even easier for families to buy healthy foods,” said Amy Epkey, MDHHS acting director. “MDHHS is committed to helping residents put food on the table for their families.”

“We are excited to offer this new service to our clients,” said Michigan WIC Director Christina Herring. “We are continuously looking for ways to improve the WIC shopping experience. Online shopping will allow our WIC families to more easily and quickly access healthy foods while juggling the demands of their everyday life.”

Online shopping will be available at all 122 Meijer stores in Michigan where WIC clients can choose between curbside pickup or home delivery. Clients can shop for WIC foods using their WIC card and non-WIC foods using a different payment method in the same transaction. Meijer is also offering free home delivery.

“As a family-owned company, Meijer understands how important it is to make shopping for healthy, everyday foods easy for all families,” said Don Sanderson, chief merchandising & marketing officer at Meijer. “We are proud to be the first retailer to offer this in Michigan, building on our legacy of improving accessibility to customers in Michigan.”

The Michigan WIC Program serves more than 187,000 women, infants and children each month by providing healthy foods, nutrition education and counseling, breastfeeding promotion and support, and referrals to other helpful programs and resources.

Michigan WIC plans to expand online shopping to other retailers in the future. This initiative is made possible through collaboration with Meijer and eWIC processor Fidelity National Information Services / Central Data Processing. Funding from the 2023 WIC Modernization Grant has enabled the launch of this project. More information is available at Michigan WIC Online Shopping.

To learn more about the WIC Program, visit Michigan.gov/wic.

- WIC Meijer NR.pdf

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Michigan WIC Program increases income threshold, more families may now qualify

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 5, 2026

CONTACT: Laina Stebbins StebbinsL@michigan.gov

Michigan WIC Program increases income threshold, more families may now qualify

LANSING, Mich. – The income guidelines for the Michigan Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) Program were recently adjusted due to federal guidelines, and more Michigan families may now qualify for benefits. Under the updated WIC income eligibility guidelines, a family of four can now qualify with an annual income of up to $61,050, an increase of more than $1,500.

WIC, a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) program administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS), provides vital support to families by offering supplemental foods, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and referrals to health and social services. WIC serves low- and moderate-income pregnant, breastfeeding and postpartum women, infants and children under age 5.

“MDHHS is committed to helping residents put food on the table for their families,” said Amy Epkey, MDHHS acting director. “Individuals in need of assistance who were not eligible in the past are encouraged to check the updated WIC income eligibility guidelines to see if they now qualify.”

WIC has been demonstrated to lessen the number of fetal deaths, reduce infant mortality, decrease low birth weight deliveries, lower the prevalence of iron deficiency anemia and increase immunization rates.

Each month, approximately 187,000 Michigan residents benefit from WIC services, helping families access the resources they need to remain healthy and strong. In addition to improving health outcomes, WIC contributes to local economies by supporting Michigan retailers and farmers.

“For more than 50 years, WIC has helped families build healthier futures by providing nutritious foods, nutrition education and personalized support during pregnancy and early childhood,” said Christina Herring, Michigan WIC Program director. “With the recent income guideline adjustments, even more Michigan families may now be eligible for these important services. We encourage anyone who is pregnant, has young children or is caring for an infant to check their eligibility and discover how WIC can make a meaningful difference for their family.”

To learn more or start your application, visit Michigan.gov/WIC or download the free WIC Connect app.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

- Michigan WIC Program Update August 2026.pdf

Webinar Registration - Moving Fatherhood into Authentic Engagement

We are pleased to announce the next webinar in our Infant Safe Sleep Webinar Series, in collaboration with the Michigan Maternal Mortality Surveillance Program.

Join us for an enlightening session which explores the critical role of fathers and male caregivers in maternal and child health. During this webinar, participants will learn strategies for engaging fathers in conversations about maternal and family health and effective approaches for building connections that support fathers' involvement in family health and well-being.

Featured speakers:

Terrance Grantham, **BA**, Healthy Start Detroit Fatherhood Coordinator and Advocate, Community Health Education Team Leader, and PCMH Case Manager, will explore how we can serve today's young fathers in their efforts and desire to be good fathers.

Adnoris "Bo" Torres, Project Supervisor, Strong Fathers/Padres Fuertes, Strong Beginnings – Healthy Start, will provide an in-depth look at leadership support and intentional fatherhood engagement within maternal and child health settings.

When: Wednesday, August 19, 2026, 1 to 2:30 PM EST

Register at: https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/miQkLkzUQOG-QxbC-3PRYA

If you have any questions, please email the Infant Safe Sleep Program at MDHHS-InfantSafeSleep@michigan.gov.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: MDHHS updates guidance on cyclosporiasis outbreak regarding lettuce and salad greens

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Aug. 6, 2026

CONTACT: Laina Stebbins, 517-241-2112, StebbinsL@michigan.gov

MDHHS updates guidance on cyclosporiasis outbreak regarding lettuce and salad greens *Reporting cadence for all data changes to weekly basis*

LANSING, Mich. — In response to the ongoing cyclosporiasis outbreak, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) advises Michigan residents that they can resume routine guidance for consuming lettuce and salad greens as new cyclosporiasis case reports and related emergency department visits are on the decline.

“Since the start of this outbreak, MDHHS has remained committed to providing timely, transparent information and clear recommendations to Michigan residents,” said Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, chief medical executive. “As new data has emerged, our guidance has evolved to reflect the best available evidence, helping ensure that prevention recommendations are accurate, actionable and responsive to the changing situation.”

After reporting 12,485 cases of cyclosporiasis in Michigan since June 2026, the data now suggests that new cyclosporiasis case reports are slowing, including a downward trend in diarrhea-related emergency department visits.

On average, persons exposed to cyclosporiasis start to feel sick seven days after exposure, but symptoms can take up to 14 days to appear. Given the seven-day average incubation period, the data suggests that:

- Most exposures occurred in late June to early July.
- The majority of the contaminated produce is likely no longer available for consumption.

Based on these updates, MDHHS is making the following changes:

- A return to routine guidance for handling produce, including lettuce and salad greens.
- The broad, precautionary recommendation to avoid bagged salad mixes during the *Cyclospora* outbreak is no longer in effect. Residents may resume their usual food handling practices and make choices based on their individual risk tolerance.
- Reporting all outbreak data on a weekly basis on Thursdays.

MDHHS continues to recommend avoiding recalled lettuce. The department will continue to monitor the situation closely and inform Michigan families if conditions change, or if signals are detected that suggest additional contaminated products have entered the food supply.

- Cyclosporiasis guidelines update PR.pdf

Upcoming State of Michigan (SOM) Holidays

September 7
November 3
November 11
November 26 and 27
December 24 and 25
December 31

Previously Released MIHP Updates

To review any previously released MIHP Biweekly Updates, they can be found by visiting the MIHP webpage Michigan.gov/MIHP

Biweekly Update Topic Submission

If you have suggestions for topics to be addressed in future additions of the MIHP Biweekly 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 email to MIHP@michigan.gov. For further assistance, contact the state office @ **1-833-MI4-MIHP (1-833-644-6447).** Thank you.