

Weekly Update

Maternal Infant Health Program



Please share this information with all MIHP team members.

Monday, June 7, 2021

- [NIH Director's Blog: COVID Vaccines Safe for Pregnant Women](#)
- [June is Pride Month](#)
- [Substance Use Disorder and Pregnancy Webinar](#)
- [June: Father's Day](#)
- [2021 Texas Fatherhood Summit](#)
- [Meet the Team: Dan Thompson](#)
- [Coordinator Directory](#)
- [Topic Submission](#)
- [Previously Released MIHP Weekly Updates](#)

NIH Director's Blog: COVID Vaccines Safe for Pregnant Women

From Dr. Francis Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH):

Clinical trials have shown that COVID-19 vaccines are remarkably effective in protecting those age 12 and up against infection by the coronavirus SARS-CoV-2. The expectation was that they would work just as well to protect pregnant women. But because pregnant women were excluded from the initial clinical trials, hard data on their safety and efficacy in this important group has been limited.

So, I'm pleased to report results from two new studies showing that the two COVID-19 mRNA vaccines now available in the United States appear to be completely safe for pregnant women. The women had good responses to the vaccines, producing needed levels of neutralizing antibodies and immune cells known as memory T cells, which [may offer more lasting protection](#). The research also indicates that the vaccines might offer protection to infants born to vaccinated mothers. Read Dr. Collin's full blog [here](#).

June is Pride Month



Governor Gretchen Whitmer and Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist issued a proclamation marking June as Pride Month to recognize the accomplishments of LGBTQ+ Michiganders.

"LGBTQ+ Michiganders are an essential part of who we are, and they make our state a better place to live and work," said **Governor Whitmer**. "Members of our LGBTQ+ community deserve full protection under the law so they can live their authentic lives. We still have work to do to make Michigan a truly inclusive state and we must expand the Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights Act because the vaccine for discrimination is legislation. I encourage all Michiganders to recognize and celebrate the contributions of the LGBTQ+ community this Pride Month."

“With more than 370,000 members of the LGBTQ+ community calling Michigan home, LGBTQ+ individuals are our neighbors, relatives, and friends,” **Lt. Governor Gilchrist** said. “We must continue to fight to make sure LGBTQ+ individuals feel safe, valued, and know that their state will invest in their health and potential. Making connections, listening, and understanding the personal stories of LGBTQ+ individuals around you is something every Michigander can do to honor Pride Month. I will continue striving for future generations to see Michigan as a place to be whom they wish, love whom they want, and be proud.”

"I'm proud to be the first openly LGBTQ+ person elected to statewide office in Michigan and look forward to celebrating Pride Month," **Nessel** said. "I also hope this proclamation serves as a call to action: We must work year-round to fight for equal protection under the law. I have dedicated myself to supporting the LGBTQ+ community and ask the people of this great state to step up as allies well beyond the month of June. A more inclusive future is dependent upon our collective efforts."

“We have a lot to celebrate as a community, especially a year after the historic Supreme Court ruling last June that upheld federal employment protections for the LGBTQ+ Americans,” said **Sen. Jeremy Moss**. “We must also remember that Pride Month began not as a celebration but as a liberation against decades of harassment, embarrassment and discrimination that the LGBTQ+ community faced. There is work yet to be done and we must amend Michigan’s Elliott-Larsen Civil Rights act to include sexual orientation and gender identity among the existing protected classes.”

View the full proclamation [here](#).

Substance Use Disorder and Pregnancy Webinar

The Health Resources and Services Administration’s (HRSA) Office of Regional Operations (ORO) in Regions 5, 6, and 7 invite you to a webinar on Substance Use Disorder and Pregnancy. This webinar is part of ORO Regions 5, 6, and 7’s Maternal Health Webinar Series. The series’ goal is to highlight innovations and promising practices as well as resources to promote and further maternal health and well-being across the lifespan. **Topics at a Glance:**

- HRSA’s Rural Communities Opioid Response Program – Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
- Maternal and Fetal Effects Of Substance Use During Pregnancy
- Signs of Substance Use During Pregnancy
- Treatments for Substance Use During Pregnancy
- Referrals for Pregnant Women with Substance Use Issues

Maternal Health Webinar Series: Substance Use Disorder and Pregnancy
Tuesday, June 22, Noon - 1:00pm. [Register here](#).

June: Father's Day



Dads today spend triple the amount of time caring for their children than dads did 50 years ago. They are essential to ensuring safe sleep for infants but aren't always included in those conversations. This [infographic](#) shows how dads can follow the safe sleep recommendations. Teaching safe sleep should not stop with the mother, but fathers or other partners need to be educated too.

2021 Texas Fatherhood Summit

The 6th Annual Texas Fatherhood Summit will be held virtually on **Thursday, June 17 - Friday, 18, 2021, 1:00pm - 4:00pm each day** featuring keynote speaker **Joe Jones, Jr., founder and CEO of the Center for Urban Families**. Jones is a national leader in workforce development, fatherhood and family services programming, and influences policy direction on a national scale through professional and civic involvement. More about Jones below.

The Summit is for professionals who engage with fathers and their families, including local and state policymakers and agencies, researchers, and representatives from parent and family programs, nonprofits, and other community groups. This year's theme, "**Taking Research to the Field**," will focus on how research and evidence can be applied on the ground when supporting fathers and families. Specifically, you'll learn:

- how programs have been serving fathers in a virtual environment;
- about incorporating father feedback to enhance programs;
- the latest in coparenting research; and
- how programs are collaborating for success.

Anyone can attend! [Click here to register today](#) and invite your colleagues to join you for the virtual 6th Annual **Texas Fatherhood Summit: Taking Research to the Field** on June 17-18.

Meet the Team: Dan Thompson

This is the first in a bi-weekly series of articles to introduce you to the MIHP team at MDHHS.



Dan is Manager of the Perinatal and Infant Health Section at the MDHHS in the Division of Maternal and Infant Health. He oversees the Maternal Infant Health Program as well as the Fetal Infant Mortality Review (FIMR), the Infant Safe Sleep, and the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention programs. He began at MDHHS in November 2018 as manager of the Maternal Infant Health Unit.

Prior to his role at MDHHS, Dan held senior management and executive-level positions at two statewide healthcare associations and at a large health system. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan and a Master's degree from Michigan State University.

Dan lives in Okemos with his wife and four children. In his spare time he drives to soccer, volleyball, track, football, baseball, or softball practices or games.

Coordinator Directory

[Click here to access the Coordinator Directory](#)

Topic Submission

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

Previously Released MIHP Weekly Updates

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

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.