Central Michigan District Health Department

Promoting Healthy Families, Healthy Communities



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PRESS RELEASE FOR LOCAL MEDIA

To: Local Media Outlets

From: Central Michigan District Health Department

RE: CMDHD Offers Free Hearing and Vision Screenings for School Children

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CMDHD Offers Free Hearing and Vision Screenings for School Children

Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD) offers important vision and hearing screenings for children. Vision tests check for issues like clear eyesight, eye muscle balance, nearsightedness, and farsightedness. Hearing tests help find hearing loss and guide families to the right medical care if needed. CMDHD provides these screenings to children during the school year for free.

"These tests are very important for the health and learning of our community's children," said Connie Lance, CMDHD Community Health Supervisor. "By catching problems early, we can help children succeed in school and life."

Vision tests are given to children in preschool, as well as in 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and 9th grades. Hearing tests are done for children in preschool, kindergarten, 2nd, and 4th grades. Preschoolers get tested in daycares, preschools, Head Start centers, or at kindergarten roundups. School-age children are tested throughout the school year when our technicians visit each school district. Teachers or parents can also request tests for other children. Screenings are available at CMDHD clinics by appointment. More information about vision and hearing screenings is found at <u>CMDHD's website</u> and <u>Michigan.gov</u>.

Families with homeschooled children can call CMDHD to set up free appointments for hearing and vision screenings. These are also available during the summer months. Parents making appointments for their child's immunizations can also schedule hearing and vision screenings at the same time, if a technician is available.

If a child doesn't pass the screening, parents are contacted and asked to see a doctor for more tests. In Michigan, about 10% of children screened for vision and 5% of children screened for hearing are referred to specialists. <u>CMDHD's Community Connections Program</u> can also help families get other services they might need.

Please visit us online at <u>www.cmdhd.org</u>.

For additional information or to set up a screening appointment, please call our Hearing and Vision department at 989-314-7570.

This article has been brought to you by Central Michigan District Health Department, which serves the counties of Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella, Osceola, and Roscommon. Visit our website at <u>www.cmdhd.org</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Instagram</u>.

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To request an interview, please visit our website (cmdhd.org) and fill out the Media Interview Request Form.

