

# Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – December 2021

CSHCS is a secondary insurance program designed to support children with eligible chronic health conditions and their families. CSHCS is also available for adults with cystic fibrosis and bleeding disorders. Call the office for more information at 269-373-5015.



## CSHCS Expands Coverage for Sickle Cell

Children's Special Health Care Services is pleased to announce an eligibility expansion for adults ages 21 and older with sickle cell disease effective 10/1/2021. CSHCS will cover services directly related to the sickle cell diagnosis. CSHCS also helps with copays and deductibles, transportation, care coordination, access to CMDS clinics, and case management.

**Initial Adult Enrollment:** Enrollment in CSHCS begins with the provider submitting a medical report related to the sickle cell diagnosis. If you have recently lost CSHCS coverage, you may be eligible to re-enroll. The initial medical eligibility period is two years if the initial medical report is not from a hematologist. If the initial medical report is received from a hematologist, the medical eligibility period is up to five years. Clients who do not have Medicaid will need to complete an enrollment application.

For more information regarding CSHCS or the enrollment process, contact our office at 269-373-5015 or the CSHCS Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722.

## Health Insurance Marketplace

The 2022 Open Enrollment Period runs from **Monday, November 1, 2021** through **Saturday, January 15, 2022**. Families may call the Health Insurance Marketplace at 1-800-318-2596 or visit online at: <https://www.healthcare.gov/>



## CSHCS Holiday Hours 2021

The CSHCS office will be closed on the following days:

**Thursday, December 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**Friday, December 24<sup>th</sup>**  
**Thursday, December 30<sup>th</sup>**  
**Friday, December 31<sup>st</sup>**

## Virtual Parent Mentor Training

The Family Center for Children & Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) will be hosting a free Virtual Parent Mentor Training. The training will take place from **Tuesday, January 25, 2022 to Thursday, January 27, 2022** on Microsoft Teams. The trainings on Tuesday and Wednesday will be **9:00am-11:30am**, then Thursday will be **9:00am-12:00pm**. If you are a parent, caregiver, or guardian of a child/youth with special health care needs, and you would like to make a difference in the lives of others, please take this opportunity to become a trained Parent Mentor. This training is open to all families who have a child with a medical, physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional condition. If interested, please register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-parent-mentor-training-tickets-185138613577>

For next month's Newsletter, please go to "Hot Topics" at [www.kalcounty.com/hcs](http://www.kalcounty.com/hcs) or find it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS](https://www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS). If you have questions or concerns please call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or the Kalamazoo CSHCS Program Representative, Heather, at 269-373-5015.

## COVID-19: Vaccination Information

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is now vaccinating children ages 5-11 years old with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine. Parents/guardians wishing to protect their children from COVID-19 may schedule an appointment with the health department at [www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine) or by calling the Covid-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200 (Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm). An appointment is required for the 5-11 year old age group. 5-11 year olds must be accompanied by an adult at the clinic.

CSHCS has been granted funds to assist CSHCS enrollees and their families as well as children with special needs in obtaining vaccinations of both COVID-19 and childhood immunizations. Please call **269-373-5010** if you are having difficulty in obtaining vaccines for your child or your family.

If you are over the age of 12, no appointment is needed. Appointments are only being made for 5-11 year olds at this time. The clinic is open Monday through Thursday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. If you have questions, you may call the Covid-19 Call Center at 269-373-5200. **Everyone 18 years or older is now eligible for a COVID-19 Booster.** For more information about boosters or third additional dose requirements, visit: [https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178\\_103214---,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/coronavirus/0,9753,7-406-98178_103214---,00.html)

## December is Seasonal Depression Awareness Month

Seasonal Affective Disorder, or SAD, is more than just those winter blues or a seasonal “funk.” SAD is a very real type of depression that is most commonly associated with the fall and winter months. If you feel your depression is severe or if you are experiencing suicidal thoughts, consult a doctor immediately or seek help at the closest emergency room. You can also call the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline at 1-800-273-8255 or visit: <https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/>

Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services is committed to providing equitable, culturally competent care to all individuals served, regardless of race, age, sex, color, national origin, religion, height, weight, marital status, political affiliation, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability.

## Flu Vaccine

Everyone 6 months of age and older should get a flu vaccine every season, especially people at high risk. This year, more than ever, it is important to get vaccinated to decrease the risk of serious disease from influenza and avoid the possibility of being infected by both influenza and COVID-19 at the same time. Kalamazoo Health & Community Services is offering influenza vaccines. Call 269-373-5203 to schedule your appointment.



## Kalamazoo Area FREE Events

**Thursday, December 16:** Junior Ranger, Earn-A-Badge in Portage. Get some help earning your badges, registration required. For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/186598590307917/>

**Now through December 31:** Ride the Holly Jolly Trolley. The trolley route goes throughout downtown Kalamazoo with 9 stops. For more information, please visit: [Holly Jolly Trolley - Kalamazoo Downtown Partnership \(downtownkalamazoo.org\)](http://downtownkalamazoo.org)

**For additional fun things to do in Kalamazoo, please visit** <https://kzookids.com/kalamazoo-events-kids-calendar/#/>