

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

Newsletter – June 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.



Safe Kids Kalamazoo – Car Seat Program

Get your car seat professionally checked by a nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technician. Safe Kids Kalamazoo is now scheduling appointments for car seat inspections at their Bronson Methodist Hospital location on **Mondays** from **1:00pm-5:00pm** and **Wednesdays** from **3:00pm-6:00pm**. To register, please visit: <https://www.bronsonhealth.com/classes-events/event-results/?topicId=553>.

If you are in need of a car seat, you may qualify to receive one at no cost. To receive a digital copy of the Eligibility Form, please email Sam Tefft at teffts@bronsonhg.org or call 269-341-6508.



Children with Special Needs Fund

The Children with Special Needs Fund (CSNF) has announced special grant funding is available to assist with ceiling and stair lifts for children/youth with special health needs. Applications for ceiling and stair lifts received by **August 31, 2021** will be reviewed in September. Please go to www.michigan.gov/csnefund to download an application. To ask for an application to be sent to you, please call 517-241-7420 or email csnefund@michigan.gov.

Talking is Teaching

The Kalamazoo Great Start Collaborative (a program of Kalamazoo RESA) has joined forces with Talking is Teaching, a national campaign to boost the early learning and brain development of children from birth through early elementary. Kalamazoo County Talking is Teaching aims to give parents and caregivers the tools to talk, read, and sing more with their young children from birth to increase meaningful interactions that are critical to healthy brain development. There are a number of activities, including monthly themes, virtual playgroups, and parent skill-building sessions. For access to the Talking is Teaching materials, please visit:

<https://www.kalamazooGreatStartCollaborative.org/materials>

Mother 2 Mother Parent Connection Meetings

Are you looking to connect with parents that can identify with the journey that you are on? Are you looking for support, guidance, resources, and encouragement? Monthly Parent Connection meetings are a structured and safe place for you to share your thoughts, feelings and experiences. The virtual setting is a comfortable and inviting atmosphere. Meetings are the second **Thursday** of every month, **6:00-7:00pm**. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/mother-2-mother-parent-connection-meetings-tickets-138338665673?aff=erelexpmlt>

For next month's Newsletter, please go to "Hot Topics" at www.kalcounty.com/hcs or find it on Facebook at 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

If you are **over the age of 12 and live in Kalamazoo County**, then you are eligible for the COVID—19 vaccine. The Moderna and Johnson & Johnson vaccines are approved for use with individuals over the age of 18. The Pfizer vaccine is the only product approved for individuals 12 years or older.

The Health Department has introduced an online self-scheduling tool for Kalamazoo County residents (who are eligible) to make appointments for upcoming clinics. Please visit: www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine. The vaccine continues to be provided by appointment at vaccination sites.

Minors scheduling appointments will need a parent/guardian at the clinic to provide consent before receiving the vaccination OR the minor may attend on their own if they have a completed Registration Form (found on the website above) with the signature and phone number of the parent/guardian listed.

It is important to continue the following practices to protect yourself if you aren't vaccinated yet:

1. **Wash your Hands Often**
2. **Avoid Close Contact (Social Distancing)**
3. **Wear a Cloth Face Covering**

For the most up-to-date information visit: www.kalcounty.com/covid19 and www.facebook.com/KalamazooCountyHCS. Please reserve phone calls for those who cannot easily access online information. The health department's COVID-19 Call Center is 269-373-5200.



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.



Kalamazoo county Pre-K is now accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year!

There are many high-quality options available to families with in-person learning as well as distanced and hybrid options. Kalamazoo County Pre-K programs are either free or low-cost for qualifying families.

Please be aware that according to new guidelines, all children must be:

▪ **3 years old on or before December 1* in order to be age eligible for the 3-year-old programs.**

▪ **4 years old on or before December 1* in order to be age eligible for the 4-year-old programs.**

*Placement may be prioritized for children who will be 3 or 4 years old on or before September 1.

Questions? Need help? Call 269-250-9333 or visit <https://www.kresa.org/Page/1368>



Kalamazoo Area FREE Events

Friday, June 25: Movies in the Park-Jumanji: The Next Level at Ramona Park. Show starts at 9:00pm. Either watch from your car or bring chairs to sit outside your vehicle.

For additional fun things to do in Kalamazoo, please visit <https://kzookids.com/events/>