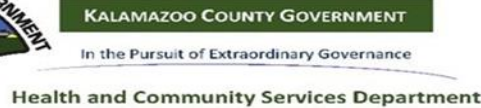


Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – November 2021

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.



Kalamazoo Great Start Parent Coalition

Parent coalition meetings are opportunities for parents and caregivers to take action on ways we can help support families in our community. Coalition meetings include opportunities for connecting with other parents & caregivers and actionable steps for using our influence to help shape early childhood initiatives. The meetings will take place on Zoom and last 1 hour. Meetings are **Wednesday, November 17, 2021 at 7:30 p.m.** and **Thursday, November 18, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.** To sign up for the Parent Coalition, please visit: <https://www.kalamazoogreatstartcollaborative.org/blank>



Kalamazoo county Pre-K still has limited openings for the 2021-2022 school year!

There are still openings for children who will turn 3 or 4-years-old by **December 1**. Children who attend high-quality Pre-K develop early literacy, math, and fine motor skills. They tend to be more social, more independent, and better behaved. Pre-K gives little learners a big boost, setting them on a path toward a lifetime of success.

If you have questions or would like to apply, call 269-250-9333 or visit <https://www.kresa.org/Page/1368>

Parent Connect Calls

The Family Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs (Family Center) is excited to offer a series of free virtual Parent Connect Calls. The next call is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 1, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.** The topic for this call is camp scholarships. They will also have a few presentations from camps located in the State of Michigan. To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-camp-scholarships-tickets-180352748927>



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/>

November is American Diabetes Month!

- **Learn More:** <https://www.diabetes.org/bigstepup>
- **Healthy Recipes:** <https://www.diabetesfoodhub.org/>
- **Advocacy:** <https://www.diabetes.org/advocacy>
- **Camps:** [Find a camp | ADA \(diabetes.org\)](#)

For next month's Newsletter, please go to "Hot Topics" at www.kalcounty.com/hcs or find it on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/ KalamazooCounty HCS](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 will now be 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 or by calling 269-373-5200. 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.

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department is also now offering Moderna and Johnson & Johnson booster doses.

Initial vaccine doses and booster doses of all three vaccines are currently available at the health department **Monday** through **Thursday** from **9:00 a.m-3:00 p.m.** No appointments required. You may choose to schedule an appointment by calling 269-373-5200 or visiting [COVID-19 Vaccine - Health and Community Services Department - Kalamazoo Michigan County Government Web Site \(kalcounty.com\)](http://www.kalcounty.com/covid19vaccine)

For those who received a Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, the following groups are eligible for a booster shot at six months or more after their initial series: adults 65+, adults 18+ who live in long-term care settings, adults 18+ who have underlying medical condition, and adults 18+ who work or live in high-risk settings. People who received a single dose of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine qualify to get a COVID-19 booster dose at least two months after their initial dose.

As previously recommended, people with moderately to severely compromised immune systems should receive an additional dose of mRNA COVID-19 vaccine at least 28 days after a second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccine. This additional dose is intended to improve the response of people who are immunocompromised to their initial vaccine series.

For more information about COVID-19 and vaccines, visit www.kalcounty.com/covid19 or call 269-373-5200

CSHCS Thanksgiving Hours 2021

Thursday, November 25th – Thanksgiving Day (CLOSED)

Friday, November 26th – Day after Thanksgiving (CLOSED)

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

Saturday, November 20: Holiday Parade. Come downtown for the 59th Kalamazoo Holiday Parade starting at **11:00 a.m.** For more information, please visit: [2021 Kalamazoo Holiday Parade | Michigan Life](http://www.kalamazoo.org/holiday-parade)

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

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.