

Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – October 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 COUNTY GOVERNMENT

In the Pursuit of Extraordinary Governance

Health and Community Services Department

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 for Michigan parents/caregivers of children with special health care needs. Training will take place from **Tuesday, November 2, 2021 to Thursday, November 4, 2021** on Microsoft Teams. The trainings on Tuesday and Wednesday will be from **9:00am-11:30am**, and Thursday will be from **9:00am-12:00pm**.

If you are a parent, caregiver, or guardian of a child/youth with special health care needs and 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. As a trained Parent Mentor, you will become a part of a statewide network of volunteer parents supporting one another, sharing resources, and helping to navigate various systems.

If you have any questions prior to the day of training, please call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or email adkinsd@michigan.gov

If interested, please register at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-parent-mentor-training-tickets-170202699857>

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, November 3, 2021 at 4:00pm**. The topic for this call is Self-Care & the Holidays. They will discuss holiday challenges and provide some coping suggestions, as well as self-care strategies to take care of your well-being during the holidays. To register, please visit:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-self-care-the-holidays-tickets-170204306663>



Food Resources

The Mobile Food Initiative is one of Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes' food programs. Food is distributed on a first-come-first-served basis and there are no eligibility requirements or paperwork to fill out. Food is free to local residents and is distributed at specific sites throughout the county. The program distributes food at over eight sites each month. For more information and a schedule of upcoming 2021 distribution dates and locations, please visit: <https://kzoolf.org/mobile-food-initiative/> Also, for a list of community food resources, please visit:

[https://kzoolf.org/files/2020/08/Food Resources 2020.pdf](https://kzoolf.org/files/2020/08/Food_Resources_2020.pdf)

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

Visit the health department at **311 E. Alcott St.** for your FREE COVID-19 vaccine. No ID required and no appointment needed. Walk-ins welcome! Clinic hours are:

Monday – Thursday 9:00am-3:00pm

COVID-19 vaccination is recommended for anyone 12 years or older. Anyone under 18 years old needs to be accompanied by a parent or guardian when being vaccinated.

Booster Information:

The CDC recently approved Pfizer booster shots at least 6 months after the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine for specific populations.

Who should get the Pfizer booster?

- people 65 years and older.
- residents in long-term care settings.
- people aged 50-64 with certain underlying medical conditions.

Who may receive the Pfizer booster?

- people aged 18-49 with certain underlying medical conditions.
- People aged 18-64 who are at increased risk for COVID-19 exposure and transmission because of occupational or institutional setting.

The booster dose recommendations only apply to individuals who received the **Pfizer COVID-19** vaccine for their primary series. There is currently no booster recommendation for those who received the Moderna or Johnson & Johnson vaccine for their primary series.

For more information on who qualifies for the booster and other frequently asked questions, visit: www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/booster-shot.html

People who qualify can find a COVID-19 vaccine location closest to them by visiting:

<https://www.vaccines.gov/>

You may also call the health department at 269-373-5200 or visit:

<https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/covid19.php> for more information or to make an appointment.

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, October 16: Fall Fun Day at Mayors' Riverfront Park starting at 3:00pm. Games, prizes, music food, pumpkins and more! For more information, please visit: <https://bgckzoo.org/fun-day?fbclid=IwAR1gitDOFQb1r3IHxfk0Rk81Wh0y8BCt7jGTzCcOx4qQqQ5lfDLaADb2eYs>

Saturday, October 30: Halloween Forest in Milham Park from 2:00pm-4:00pm. Fall themed games and snacks. For more information, please visit: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/halloween-forest/451463806150605/>

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

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.