



HEALTH & COMMUNITY  
SERVICES DEPARTMENT

## Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS) Newsletter – October 2023

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, sickle cell disease, and certain bleeding disorders. Call the office for more information at 269-373-5015.

### ATTENTION: MERIDIAN Health Plan Members

As of **January 1, 2024**, Meridian Health Plan Medicaid will no longer be accepted by the following:

- Ascension Borgess
- Bronson
- WMed Health

If you currently receive coverage through Meridian Health Plan Medicaid, it is recommended that you choose a new plan that ensures you are covered by insurance for care received at the above locations (including primary and specialty care providers and outpatient centers) **before January 1, 2024**.

To request a change in your health plan, please contact **Michigan Enrolls** at **888-367-6557** or **877-274-2737** if you have Children's Special Health Care coverage. If you are told that you must wait until your open enrollment date, and that date is after 1/1/2024, you must **request an appeal** from the MI Enrolls representative. You will then receive paperwork in the mail where you can explain that you need an earlier date due to your providers no longer participating with Meridian Health Plan. This form will need to be completed and returned as soon as possible. Below is a PDF of the appeal form to be filed with MI Enrolls.



Cause for  
 disenrollment MSA-1



### October is Infant Safe Sleep Month

October 2023 Infant Safe Sleep Month calls attention to the importance of preventing sleep-related infant deaths. To keep babies 0-12 months of age safe, while sleeping at night and during naps, follow the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) guidelines:

- Place baby on back, in a crib, bassinet or pack and play for every sleep time.
- Use a firm mattress with a tightly fitted sheet.
- Keep baby's sleep space clutter free – no pillows, blankets, bumper pads, or toys.
- Avoid covering baby's head or overheating. Instead of a blanket, consider using a sleep sack, wearable blanket or footed sleeper to keep baby warm.
- Keep baby in a smoke-free and nicotine-free environment.
- Support breastfeeding and immunizations.
- Remind everyone who cares for baby, including babysitters and family members, how to keep baby safe while sleeping.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/safety-injury-prev/safe-sleep2/safe-sleep-for-your-baby/accordion/keep-your-baby-sleeping-safely/safe-sleep-steps>

For next month's Newsletter, please go to <https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/mch/cshcs/newsletters.php> . If you have questions or concerns, please call the Family Phone Line at 1-800-359-3722 or the Kalamazoo CSHCS Program office at 269-373-5015.

## Flu Vaccination and Fall Fun

The Kalamazoo County Health & Community Services Department invites the community to a spooktacular event combining the importance of public health with fall fun on **Tuesday, October 24** at its 311 E Alcott Street location.

**Flu Clinic:** Scare away the influenza virus by scheduling an appointment to get vaccinated between **3:00-7:00pm**. The first 30 appointments, available to anyone 6 months or older, will receive a free book bag. Furry friends with West Michigan Therapy Dogs will join the clinic starting at 4:00pm.

Please bring a photo ID and copy of insurance to the appointment and consider completing the online registration form in advance.

[https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/ph/pdf\\_files/Clinic%20Intake%20Registration%20Form.pdf](https://www.kalcounty.com/hcs/ph/pdf_files/Clinic%20Intake%20Registration%20Form.pdf)

While most insurance plans cover the vaccine cost, no one will be turned away for an inability to pay. A parent or guardian should accompany those under the age of 18.

**Trunk-or-Treat:** Once you've been vaccinated, treat yourself to something sweet in the north end of the parking lot from **4:00-6:00pm** where vehicles will also hand out goodies and important program information. In the event of adverse weather, the festivities will shift indoors.

**Vaccination Assistance** – 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.

## Virtual Parent Connect Call

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 monthly. The October call is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 17, 2023**, at **11:00am**. The topic for this call is ACEs 101. ACE stands for Adverse Childhood Experiences. Children and youth with special health care needs are more likely to experience ACEs than their healthy peers. What can you do as a parent/caregiver to help your child? Join this Parent Connect Call to learn more about ACEs and the impact on children with special health care needs and their families. To Register, please visit:

[https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-aces-101-tickets-721311471027?utm\\_source=eventbrite&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=notification&utm\\_campaign=following\\_published\\_event&utm\\_term=Parent+Connect+Call%3A++ACES+101&aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/parent-connect-call-aces-101-tickets-721311471027?utm_source=eventbrite&utm_medium=email&utm_content=notification&utm_campaign=following_published_event&utm_term=Parent+Connect+Call%3A++ACES+101&aff=ebemoffollowpublishemail)



### Kalamazoo Area FREE Events

**Saturday, October 21** – Harvest Fest from 10:00am-12:00pm. Trunk or treat, hayrides, photo booth, fall crafts, bounce house, donuts & apple cider. The Point Community Center, 2595 10th Street North, Kalamazoo.

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.