



BERRIEN COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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For Immediate Release

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Berrien County Health Department Announces Summer Schedule for Pre-Kindergarten Hearing and Vision Screening Clinics

Benton Harbor, Michigan, June 13, 2022 – The Berrien County Health Department has announced the summer schedule for its pre-kindergarten hearing and vision screening clinics, which begin Tuesday, June 14.

The screenings are required by state law for all children entering kindergarten at public and private schools. All schools are again requiring first-year students be tested for hearing and vision for the 2022-23 school year following a loosening of the rule during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The BCHD clinics are free and open to all Berrien County residents. Parents of children entering preschool are also encouraged to get their student screened for hearing and vision.

“It’s important for children to be screened by a professional for hearing and vision so they can be ready to read, listen and learn,” said Melisa Jordan, BCHD’s hearing and vision coordinator. “Young children can have hearing and vision problems and not even know it since they have no basis for comparison.

“We know an undiagnosed hearing or vision problem can often lead to trouble learning, reading or following instructions. These screenings can help set students up for success from day one.”

The clinics are offered by appointment at the BCHD's offices in Benton Harbor, Niles and Three Oaks. To schedule an appointment, call Melisa Jordan at 269.926.7121, ext. 5293.

The Benton Harbor clinics are at 2149 E. Napier Ave. and available the following dates and times:

- Thursday, July 14 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Friday, July 22 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Thursday, July 28 from 1-5:45 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 4 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 18 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Thursday, Aug. 23 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 29 from 9-11:45 a.m. and 1:30-5:45 p.m.

The Niles clinics are at 1205 N. Front St. and available:

- Tuesday, June 14 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 12 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, July 26 from 1-5:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 16 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 30 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.

The Three Oaks clinic is at 21 N. Elm St. and is available Thursday, July 21 from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3:45 p.m.

The hearing screening takes two to three minutes and features six sounds for the child to identify. If any hearing issues are discovered, the BCHD provides a referral for a hearing exam at the family's health care provider or the Berrien Springs Public Schools Hearing Center.

The vision screening takes five to 10 minutes and features four shapes for the child to identify. If any vision issues are discovered, the BCHD provides a referral for an eye exam at the family's eye doctor of choice.

Find more information about the hearing and vision screening clinics on the BCHD's [website](#) or contact Melisa Jordan at mjordan@bchdmi.org or 269.926.7121, ext. 5293.

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