



Indiana State  
Department of Health  
Early Hearing Detection  
and Intervention Program

March 26, 2020

Dear Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Stakeholder,

The Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and EHDI are committed to the safety and health of all Hoosiers. Please review the ISDH Covid-19 website for daily updates <https://coronavirus.in.gov/>. As the COVID-19 pandemic evolves, many health care systems and practitioners are reducing ambulatory services to reduce risks to patients, families and health care teams. Indiana Early Hearing Detection and Intervention Program (EHDI) wants to provide guidance and clarification regarding procedures involved in newborn hearing screening and follow up services.

Our staff is working remotely to continue maximizing our efforts to ensure the state and national EHDI mandates of “1-3-6”. These efforts are in place to ensure that every baby receives a newborn hearing screening by one month of age, obtains diagnostic audiology testing by three months of age (if baby does not pass newborn hearing screening) and if identified as deaf or hard of hearing, is enrolled in early intervention services by six months of age. As expected, the current changes in healthcare due to COVID-19 will likely negatively impact the ability for babies to receive the optimal services that our mandate supports. Indiana EHDI is committed to supporting Hoosier families and healthcare providers to minimize the impact these changes will have on the ability to screen, identify and support deaf and hard of hearing children in Indiana.

We are including with this letter an EHDI FACT SHEET FOR BIRTHING HOSPITALS REGARDING COVID 19 and an EHDI FACT SHEET FOR AUDIOLOGY FOLLOW UP TESTING REGARDING COVID 19. Feel free to share with any relevant or appropriate stakeholder. These fact sheets contain important information regarding hospital reporting and follow up services relevant to newborn hearing screening efforts. Please note that these fact sheets are dated and will be updated as needed as this situation continues to evolve. These will also be posted on our website [www.hearing.in.gov](http://www.hearing.in.gov).

We are also including several references for our stakeholders including a list of audiology providers in the state who are equipped to provide audiology diagnostic services when operational and contact information for EHDI staff. ***It is imperative that birthing hospitals and physicians ensure families are educated on the importance of scheduling and maintaining diagnostic testing appointments.***

We appreciate your cooperation during this time to help us support newborn hearing screening and follow up efforts to minimize the impact on deaf and hard of hearing children in our state. Please contact our staff with any questions or concerns.

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