

SOUND MATTERS

m
DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH
2020 • ISSUE 3

Audiology Newsletter of the Minnesota Early Hearing Detection & Intervention Program

Stay Strong Minnesota!

Tools for Parents Waiting for EHDI Follow-up

The COVID-19 pandemic has clearly resulted in unprecedented changes and challenges in our nation's delivery of healthcare, and in the economic welfare of families. Minnesotans have worked through "Stay Home MN" and "Stay Safe MN." As we now work to persevere through these challenges, we continue to see hopefulness and collaboration in the EHDI community. Here are some ways you can help support families who may be experiencing temporary follow-up delays while navigating the Early Hearing Detection and Intervention system to "stay strong" during this time of waiting for available appointments.

- Encourage verbal, physical, and visual interactions to set the stage for future language development. This includes smiling and other facial expressions, using words, gestures, or signs, cuddling, responding to baby's verbalizations, and more.

Parent resources for early interactions with baby can be found at <https://www.babyhearing.org/language-learning/respond-to-your-baby>

- Observe baby's responses to sound and share those at baby's follow-up appointment. Hearing and Speech Milestones can be found at <https://www.health.state.mn.us/docs/people/childreneyouth/improveehdi/hearingspeechmilestones.pdf>
- Help parents prepare their baby for a successful audiology follow-up by sharing pre-visit information <https://www.health.state.mn.us/people/childreneyouth/ctc/hearingscreen/procedures.html>

Thank you Minnesota audiologists, for all you do to support children and families! Stay strong!

Did you know? Latest Issue of JEHD is available

The newest Journal of Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (JEHD), Volume 5; Issue 1, is now available for free download at <https://digitalcommons.usu.edu/jehdi/>. This publication from the National Center of Hearing Assessment and Management (NCHAM) shares evidence-based research, quality improvement efforts, and other key factors in support of advancing early hearing detection and intervention.

Have You Heard?



MDH COVID-19 Resources for Minnesotans

During this time of crisis, families may bring concerns to your attention that might normally be directed to a primary care provider. Here are some public health resources that you can offer families.

- Minnesota Department of Health COVID-19 public HelpLine 651-297-1304 or 1-800-657-3504 weekdays 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Testing locations for individuals with COVID-19 symptoms <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/if-sick/>
- Mental Health Support <https://mn.gov/covid19/for-minnesotans/get-help/mental-health.jsp>
- Child care information <https://mn.gov/childcare/>
- Unemployment support <https://www.uimn.org/>
- Emergency Food Support <https://mn.gov/dhs/food-emergency/>



Last Words from the Advisory Committee



Meeting highlights...

- 5/20/2020 meeting canceled due to COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.

Next meeting...

To be determined at a later date whether this will be possible.

**Scheduled for August 19, 2020
1:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Amherst A. Wilder Foundation
451 Lexington Parkway North
St. Paul, MN 55104**

Contact Us:

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EHDI Website: www.improveehdi.org/mn