

## Guidance from the American Academy of Pediatrics on Newborn Screening During the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Pandemic

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly supports the continued provision of health care for children during the COVID-19 pandemic unless community circumstances related to the pandemic require necessary adjustments. A [webpage with critical updates and guidance from the AAP has been developed](#) and includes information and resources for pediatricians on responding to the COVID-19 pandemic. An accompanying [HealthyChildren.org page for resources and guidance for families on COVID-19](#) has also been developed.

Newborn and infant care should be provided consistent with the [Bright Futures Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents](#) (4th Edition) and the corresponding [Bright Futures/AAP Recommendations for Preventive Pediatric Health Care](#) (Periodicity Schedule) whenever possible.

[The AAP recommends that pediatricians continue to follow federal and state guidelines on newborn screening and the Recommended Uniform Screening Panel set by the Advisory Committee on Heritable Disorders in Newborn and Children.](#) Pediatricians should follow their specific [state guidance](#) for procurement and follow up of results.

### Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (Newborn Hearing Screening)

States and territories have early hearing detection and intervention programs and systems in place to ensure that newborns are screened at birth for hearing loss. Clinical best practices advise that infants be screened by 1 month of age, are diagnosed for hearing loss by 3 months of age and enter early intervention services by 6 months of age. Continued adherence to these standards amid COVID-19 is essential to ensure healthy and appropriate development.

### Additional Information

#### COVID-19 resources and updates for health care professionals

- *AAP News*: [Coronavirus disease outbreak coverage](#)
- AAP Red Book Online: [2019 Novel Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Infections](#)
- *Pediatrics* curated [collection of articles](#) on COVID-19
- **COVID-19 Planning Considerations: Guidance for School Re-entry:** As schools and states develop plans for students to return to school during the COVID-19 pandemic, the AAP has updated [interim guidance](#).
- **Guidance Related to Childcare During COVID-19:** This [AAP guidance](#) is based on what is currently known about the transmission and severity of coronavirus disease.
- **Family Presence Policies for Pediatric Inpatient Settings During the COVID-19 Pandemic:** This [guidance](#) offers information on family visitors for children and adolescents in the hospital.

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**COVID-19 resources for families on [HealthyChildren.org](https://www.healthychildren.org), including:**

- HealthyChildren.org: [Return to School During COVID-19](#)
- RadioMD: [How the COVID-19 Pandemic Impacts Kids with Special Health Care Needs](#)
- HealthyChildren.org: [COVID-19 and Pediatric Multi-System Inflammatory Syndrome](#)
- HealthyChildren.org: [Mental Health & COVID-19: Signs Your Teen May Need More Support](#)
- HealthyChildren.org: [Age-Based Tips to Help Juggle Parenting and Working at Home During COVID-19](#)
- HealthyChildren.org: [2019 Novel Coronavirus](#)

## Clinical Corner

### *Principles of Financing the Medical Home for Children*

**Abstract:** A well-implemented and adequately funded medical home not only is the best approach to optimize the health of the individual patient but also can function as an effective instrument for improving population health. Key financing elements to providing quality, effective, comprehensive care in the pediatric medical home include the following: (1) first dollar coverage without deductibles, copays, or other cost-sharing for necessary preventive care services as recommended by *Bright Futures: Guidelines for Health Supervision of Infants, Children, and Adolescents*; (2) adoption of a uniform definition of medical necessity across payers that embraces services that promote optimal growth and development and prevent, diagnose, and treat the full range of pediatric physical, mental, behavioral, and developmental conditions, in accord with evidence-based science or evidence-informed expert opinion; (3) payment models that promote appropriate use of pediatric primary care and pediatric specialty services and discourage inappropriate, inefficient, or excessive use of medical services; and (4) payment models that strengthen the patient- and family-physician relationship and do not impose additional administrative burdens that will only erode the effectiveness of the medical home. These goals can be met by designing payment models that provide adequate funding of the cost of medical encounters, care coordination, population health services, and quality improvement activities; provide incentives for quality and effectiveness of care; and ease administrative burdens.

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## Education Station

### June was National CMV Awareness Month

[National Cytomegalovirus \(CMV\) Awareness Month is an annual observance held in June to increase awareness of CMV, the most common infectious cause of birth defects.](#) Cytomegalovirus is the most common infectious cause of birth defects in the United States. About 1 out of 5 babies with congenital CMV infection will have birth defects or long-term health problems, such as hearing loss. [The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has developed awareness information—the CMV Resource Center—to promote CMV Awareness Month. These resources aim to increase understanding of congenital CMV and to support families affected by congenital CMV.](#)

### **New Resource: 8 Reasons to Say YES to Early Intervention for your child who is deaf or hard of hearing**

[New from the Family Leadership in Language and Learning \(FL3\) Center—this resource can be shared with families to explain the importance of early intervention as soon as a child has a confirmed diagnosis.](#) This resource:

- Shares information about the positive aspects of early intervention for families with children who are deaf and hard of hearing.
- Is available for pediatricians, nonphysician clinicians, and other physicians to share with families electronically or in print some basics when discussing early intervention and why it is important.
- Encourages that all families, regardless of degree of hearing loss/level or communication/language of the child, should have the opportunity to understand and advocate for early intervention services, when needed for their child.

### **National Black Deaf Advocates**

[National Black Deaf Advocates \(NBDA\) is the official advocacy organization for thousands of Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing Americans.](#) The NBDA is at the forefront of advocacy efforts for civil rights and equal access to education, employment, and social services for all Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing citizens in the United States. The NBDA has state chapters and their website includes a list of resources and information for groups and organizations seeking to advance equity for Black Deaf and Hard of Hearing individuals.

### **Webinar Recording: Providing Early Intervention to Deaf and Hard of Hearing Babies During COVID-19**

Presented by the [National Association for the Deaf, this recorded webinar discusses best practices in providing early intervention \(EI\) services to deaf and hard of hearing \(DHH\) infants during the COVID-19 pandemic.](#) This webinar provides tools and resources for EI providers and nonphysician clinicians to consider. This webinar also offers guidance to families of DHH infants in identifying the best EI services for their infants. [A transcript of the webinar is also available.](#)

### **Free Webinar Series from Hear to Learn**

[Hear to Learn: Resources for Parents for Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing offered a free monthly webinar series.](#) The webinars covered a variety of topics related to the listening and spoken language development of children with hearing loss. Both parents and professionals were invited to participate. All previous 2020 webinar recordings are available on the Hear to Learn website. Titles include: Focused Conversations; Count Down to Mainstreaming; How to Prepare for the Next School; Integrating Listening and Spoken Language Strategies for Daily Living; and What Does Listening Look Like? Stages of Auditory Development. [Visit the Hear to Learn website for the information about the next planned series.](#)

### **Children with Special Health Care Needs Face Challenges Accessing Information, Support, and Services**

[This issue brief developed by Child Trends examines the most recently available comprehensive data on children and youth with special health care needs \(CYSHCN\) and their families.](#) The issue examines topics like socioeconomic status, access to medical home, and truancy. Authors found that compared to their peers without special health care needs, CYSHCN are more likely to experience marginalization.

## **Medical Home Latest and Greatest**

### **Care Coordination in the Community: The Medical-Legal Partnership Program**

[Developed in partnership with the Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs at St Christopher's Hospital for Children and the National Center for Care Coordination Technical Assistance, this profile highlights the Medical-Legal Partnership program at an urban primary care practice in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.](#) In this program, attorneys are available onsite at the primary care practice to provide families with legal services. This profile includes strategies for building inhouse resources in clinics to address social determinants of health, including legal challenges facing families. Care coordination tools and resources that support this work include the [Care Coordination Measurement Tool](#) and the [Pediatric Integrated Care Survey](#).

### Do You Follow Us on Facebook?

[The National Resource Center for Patient/Family-Centered Medical Home \(NRC-PFCMH\) bi-monthly e-Newsletter is full of information from the NRC-PFCMH and other partners—the latest issue is now online.](#) In addition, that latest implementation information and resources are also posted on the NRC Facebook page. [Information from the EHDl program is also posted on the NRC Facebook page, so follow the NRC today!](#)

**Disclaimer:** The information and opinions contained in this newsletter are compiled from various sources and represent a multitude of opinions and methodologies. They do not necessarily represent policy or recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics. For questions regarding content, or recommendations for future content, contact [Müge Chavdar](#), MPH Program Manager, Early Hearing Detection and Intervention, at the American Academy of Pediatrics.

The AAP EHDl program implementation staff send this e-newsletter to the Academy's EHDl Chapter Champions, other interested AAP members, state EHDl coordinators, and other stakeholders. For additional information on hearing screening, or to access tools and resources relevant to early hearing detection and intervention, click [here](#). If you would like to unsubscribe to this newsletter, contact Müge Chavdar at [mchavdar@aap.org](mailto:mchavdar@aap.org) or 630/626-6418.