



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

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News Release

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Immediate Release

FREE VISION AND HEARING SCREENINGS

Kingsford and Iron River, Michigan – August 4, 2020. The Dickinson-Iron District Health Department will be conducting FREE hearing and vision screenings for pre-school as well as school age children at their upcoming clinics. Those who may have missed previous screenings and home-schooled students are welcome at this FREE screening. Any resident 18 years of age and younger are welcome. Clinics will be held on August 19th, 21st and 24th in Dickinson County and August 17th in Iron County at the local Health Departments.

Michigan Law requires that children entering school be tested for hearing and vision problems prior to enrollment. In addition, health care professionals encourage young children to be screened to detect problems at an early age. School vision screening programs have demonstrated that too frequently children enter school with vision defects. Some serious defects cannot be corrected at school age while treatment in the preschool years can be highly successful. Preschoolers are tested for clearness of vision, muscle balance, and any obvious symptoms of eyesight problems. Five to ten percent of preschoolers screened may be referred to a professional eye care specialist for further examination.

Hearing loss is a common problem. A hearing problem can affect a child's behavior or performance in the classroom. Seven out of ten children need treatment for an ear problem before they reach the age of four. A child who has trouble hearing may hear you correctly at times, appear to ignore you at other times, or show signs of speech difficulty. Hearing screening by a public health technician can identify hearing problems. Children showing hearing problems at the screening are then offered the opportunity to attend a free otology clinic to be examined by a medical ear specialist.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we have taken measures to keep everyone safe. Clinic appointments are spaced farther apart to limit people in the lobby. Temperatures will be taken upon entry and masks will be worn, as well as disinfection of all surfaces and equipment between clients.

Please call the Health Department NOW for an appointment for your child's screening. In Dickinson County call (906) 774-1868 or in Iron County call (906) 265-9913.

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