



Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) COVID-19 Fact Sheet: Follow-up Audiology Diagnostic Testing

NEWBORN HEARINGS SCREENINGS ARE STILL REQUIRED

The Governor's recent executive "stay at home" order (https://www.in.gov/gov/files/Executive_Order_20-08_Stay_at_Home.pdf) does not change or eliminate any state mandate or regulation regarding newborn hearing screening services including the requirement that every baby should receive a newborn hearing screening (Indiana Code 16-41-17-2) and The Executive Order also provides an exemption for healthcare providers who are providing services related to any state mandate or regulation. Newborn hearing screenings should continue to be completed on all babies born in Indiana as outlined in Indiana Code and EHDI policies (www.hearing.in.gov).

CONCERNS FOR NEWBORN HEARING SCREENING FOLLOW UP

Due to COVID-19 many audiology diagnostic facilities are closing for a certain time frame as dictated by their individual management, creating challenges in newborn hearing screening efforts. These changes will likely impact a birthing facility's ability to contact an audiology facility directly to schedule a baby for diagnostic follow up testing before the family leaves the hospital and for children to receive diagnostic follow up testing by 3 months of age. The following required reporting steps will help ensure those babies referred from newborn screening receive needed diagnostic testing.

FOLLOW UP AUDIOLOGY TESTING REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

1. It is critical that all healthcare providers including birthing facilities, physicians, EHDI staff and audiology facilities are diligent about monitoring and contacting families who have been referred for audiology testing and/or had to cancel diagnostic testing during this time.
2. If audiology facilities are now able to provide diagnostic services for babies who have referred on newborn hearing screening, those results are required to be reported to EHDI through EARS system or via fax (317-925-2888) within five days of the test date.
3. If audiology facilities can schedule families now for future appointments, please make those appointments and communicate details with the families and physician.
4. Audiologists should work directly with their office staff to monitor and ensure that babies who have been referred to their facility for diagnostic testing and/or were scheduled, but cancelled appointments, are contacted to be rescheduled as soon as clinics are operational. EHDI will communicate with each diagnostic facility regarding children who have been referred to their clinics (as reported by birthing hospitals) to assist in rescheduling diagnostic appointments.



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5. EHDI is aware that when clinics resume operations, capacity for testing will be a challenge. We are developing recommended modified diagnostic testing protocols, which will be distributed by April 1, 2020 to support the ability for more children to receive testing as soon as possible.
6. If a baby receives any type of outpatient hearing rescreen or testing in any healthcare setting (i.e. physician's office, birthing hospital, midwife, or audiologist), those results are required to be reported to EHDI (Fax: 317-925-2888). Documentation should include the type of test, ear specific results and normal results and be reported within five days of testing (Indiana Administrative Code - 410 IAC 3-3).

WHAT IS COVID-19?

Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. Patients with COVID-19 have experienced mild to severe respiratory illness, including fever, cough and shortness of breath. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus. It is not the same as other types of coronaviruses that commonly circulate among people and cause mild illness, like the common cold. Those who are older than 60, have underlying health conditions such as heart or lung disease, and diabetes, are particularly at risk.

HOW DOES COVID-19 SPREAD?

The virus that causes COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly from person-to-person, between people who are in close contact with one another (within about 6 feet) through respiratory droplets when an infected person coughs or sneezes. It may be possible that a person can get COVID-19 by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it and then touching their own mouth, nose or possibly their eyes, but this is not thought to be the main way the virus spreads.

Please contact our staff with any questions or for clarification.

www.hearing.in.gov

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