

HEARING SCREENING MONTHLY

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF
THE COLORADO EHDI ALLIANCE



From the Editors

From the Colorado EHDI Director, Arlene Stredler Brown, and the COVID Task Force Facilitator, Hannah Glick

We hope this newsletter finds you well! We also hope that you've had a chance to relax and rejuvenate this holiday season after a very unprecedented and challenging year. I think it is fair to say that many of us are excited for a fresh start and moving forward in this coming year. Despite these challenges, we want to thank you for all you have done and continue to do during this unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic to support newborn hearing screening efforts in the State of Colorado. Your dedication and service are unwavering and do not go unnoticed!

This year, Colorado EHDI rolled out several new task forces, including the COVID Task Force and the Screening Task Force. These task forces are focused on supporting you in using best practices and safe practices in hearing screening through the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond. Based on feedback from the October survey that we sent out to Colorado screening facilities and midwives, we've decided to launch this monthly publication to provide you with the latest information. Our very first issue focuses on resources available to you, including the newly launched Colorado EHDI website and the Health Information Data Systems (HIDS) database.

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Current Newborn Hearing Screening Guidance

It has long been understood that undiagnosed or untreated hearing loss at birth can affect speech, language, and social-emotional development as well as academic achievement if early intervention is delayed. State Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) programs are designed to ensure timely hearing screening, diagnosis, and access to early intervention services. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends continued adherence to 1-3-6 guidelines (screen by 1 month, diagnose hearing loss by 3 months, enter early intervention by 6 months) throughout the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure each child's health and appropriate development. Further, appropriate and immediate referral is warranted for infants and children with missed or failed screenings/re-screenings to ensure timely access to early intervention.

Launch of New Colorado EHDI Website

The new and improved Colorado EHDI Website is now live! One new resource featured on the website is a COVID-19 FAQ page for both providers and families. The Provider COVID-19 FAQ page features most commonly asked questions and informational resources related to safe screening during the COVID-19 pandemic. Check out the new website at www.coloradoehdi.org.

Launch of HIDS Database

The new and improved Health Information Data Systems (HIDS) database was launched in October in collaboration with the Colorado Department of Public Health & Environment (CDPHE). This database will serve as a central state database for tracking screening, re-screening, loss to follow-up, and diagnostic data in our state. Any professional who screens babies or performs pediatric diagnostic testing for the birth through 36-month population can [apply for HIDS access here](#). [Training materials, videos, and user information about the HIDS database can be accessed here](#). A "System Orientation" video with [step-by-step instructions for accessing and using the HIDS database can be accessed here](#). In addition to entering all new 2021 data, we highly encourage professionals to backfill screening and intervention data from 2019. Once 2019 data is in HIDS, please start to update 2020 data. This will help us to ensure vital reporting to the Center for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) and allows us to monitor and track our state's progress and improve our EHDI system. Additional questions about HIDS? Please field your questions to the following personnel listed below. We are here to support you!

For 2019 and 2020 data entry questions, contact:

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For questions about the Colorado EHDI program, contact:

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For more technical HIDS questions, contact:

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