

# Ohio Infant Hearing and Ohio Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) Programs COVID-19 IMPORTANT PARENT INFORMATION

## Did your new baby not pass the second hearing screening at the hospital?

Normally, babies who did not pass the second hearing screening at the hospital should schedule additional testing with an audiologist within **two to four weeks or up to three months after discharge from the hospital**. The hospital can assist with scheduling or you can make the appointment by using the pediatric audiology services directory located at <https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/infant-hearing-program/hearing-evals/>. You can also visit **odh.ohio.gov**, enter **infant hearing screening** in the search box, and click on left tab for pediatric audiology providers.

## Is it safe to go to my baby's audiology appointment?

Please go to any recommended hearing evaluations once you and your baby can safely do so. Use the contact information below if you have any questions or concerns about newborn hearing screening and hearing evaluations.

## HEARING SCREENING QUESTIONS

Reena Kothari  
[Reena.Kothari@odh.ohio.gov](mailto:Reena.Kothari@odh.ohio.gov)  
**(614) 387-0135**

## EVALUATION AND SCHEDULING HELP

Kim Dennison  
[ocecdkdennison@att.net](mailto:ocecdkdennison@att.net)  
**(740) 256-1851**

## CHILDREN WITH MEDICAL HANDICAPS PROGRAM

<https://odh.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/odh/know-our-programs/children-with-medical-handicaps/welcome-to>  
**1-800-755-4769**

## INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

**odh.ohio.gov** (enter **infant hearing program**)  
[coronavirus.ohio.gov](https://coronavirus.ohio.gov)

## SCHEDULING

- Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, scheduling a hearing evaluation with an audiologist may be difficult due to scheduling delays and facility closures. Yet, it is important that **you contact an audiology provider soon to schedule your appointment**. Some facilities that are currently closed or not seeing patients right now are **still scheduling future appointments**.

## REFERRAL

- You may need a referral from your baby's primary care doctor to schedule a hearing evaluation appointment. This could be due to your insurance requirements or provider office policy. At your well child checkup, it may be helpful to ask your doctor/nurse if a referral is needed or check with your insurance company.

## NO INSURANCE

- If you do not have insurance or your insurance does not cover the hearing evaluation, you may contact the Ohio Department of Health (ODH) Children with Medical Handicaps (CMH) Program at 1-800-755-4769.

## NEXT STEPS

- You may receive a phone call from ODH to help with scheduling your hearing evaluation appointment when your baby is less than 2 months old. Feel free to ask questions. Use the contact information provided on this handout if you have questions about the hearing screening or diagnostic follow-up testing.