



## Essential Local Public Health Services (ELPHS)

### ELPHS Program Overview

Local health departments in Michigan are legally required to **assure community protection from preventable disease and environmental hazards**. The following program areas represent the minimum service package every jurisdiction must make available.

#### 1. Public Water Supply & Private Groundwater Supply

**Goal: Ensure residents have safe drinking water.**

**Key services:**

- Monitoring public water systems
- Bacteriological and nitrate testing of private wells
- Investigation of contaminated wells
- Advising homeowners on treatment, disinfection, and maintenance
- Responding to waterborne illness complaints

**Why it matters:**

Unsafe drinking water can transmit E. coli, Giardia, hepatitis A, and other serious illnesses.

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#### 2. Onsite Sewage Treatment Management (Septic Systems)

**Goal: Prevent human waste from contaminating groundwater and surface water.**

**Key services:**

- Septic system permits
- Site evaluations and soil testing
- Inspection of new installations
- Failure investigations
- Enforcement of sewage nuisance violations

**Why it matters:**

Failing septic systems are a major cause of lake and well contamination in Michigan.



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### 3. Food Protection

**Goal:** Prevent foodborne illness in restaurants and public events.

**Key services:**

- Restaurant licensing and inspections
- Temporary event food inspections (fairs, festivals)
- Food safety education for operators
- Investigation of food poisoning outbreaks

**Why it matters:**

Controls illnesses such as Salmonella, Norovirus, and E. coli outbreaks.

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### 4. Immunization

**Goal:** Protect the community from vaccine-preventable diseases.

**Key services:**

- Childhood vaccination clinics
- School immunization record review
- Adult and flu vaccination programs
- Vaccine education and access for uninsured residents

**Why it matters:**

Maintains community (herd) immunity and prevents outbreaks such as measles and pertussis.

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### 5. Vision & Hearing Screening

**Goal:** Identify sensory problems early so children can learn.

**Key services:**

- School-based screening programs
- Referral to eye doctors or audiologists
- Follow-up tracking with families and schools

**Why it matters:**

Untreated vision or hearing loss is strongly linked to learning delays and poor academic performance.



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### 6. Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Control

**Goal:** Reduce transmission of sexually transmitted infections.

**Key services:**

- Confidential testing (e.g., syphilis, gonorrhea, chlamydia, HIV referrals)
- Treatment or referral to treatment
- Partner notification/contact tracing
- Community education and risk-reduction counseling

**Why it matters:**

Prevents infertility, congenital infections, and long-term complications.

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### 7. General Communicable Disease Control

**Goal:** Detect and stop infectious disease spread in the community.

**Key services:**

- Disease reporting and surveillance
- Case investigation and contact tracing
- Isolation and quarantine guidance
- Tuberculosis control and monitoring
- Coordination with hospitals and schools during outbreaks

**Why it matters:**

This is the legal authority health departments use during outbreaks and pandemics.



## Children's Lead Screening and Prevention Services

### Children's Lead Screening Program Overview

Lead is a toxic metal that can harm a child's brain and nervous system, even at low levels. Children may have **no symptoms**, so a **blood test is the only way to know**. Michigan and CDC emphasize there is **no safe level of lead in blood**.

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As of April 2025, Michigan has **universal blood lead testing** requirements:

- **All children:** test at **12 months** and **24 months**.
- **If there is no record of a prior test:** children must get at least one test **between 24 and 72 months** (up to age 6).
- **Additional testing at age 4 (48–60 months):** required for children living in certain **high-risk Michigan cities/townships**.
- **Medicaid:** requires testing at **12 and 24 months**, and once between **36–72 months** if not previously tested.

Testing involves:

- **Capillary test (finger poke):** quick screening test.
  - **Venous test (blood draw from vein):** more accurate.
  - **Important:** If a **capillary** result is elevated, it should be **confirmed with a venous test**.
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CDC uses a **Blood Lead Reference Value (BLRV) of 3.5 µg/dL** to identify children with higher lead levels than most children and to guide follow-up.

**If a child's level is at or above 3.5 µg/dL:** a provider may recommend:

- repeat testing on a schedule,
- nutrition counseling (iron/calcium),
- checking the home and other exposure sources,
- support from public health programs.

**Very high levels (emergency):** need urgent medical evaluation and rapid action to remove exposure sources.



## Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

### CSHCS Program Overview

**Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)** is a public health program administered by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS). It helps **children and some young adults with certain chronic medical conditions** get specialty medical care, care coordination, and help paying medical bills.

**Goal:** Ensure children with complex or lifelong health conditions can access needed treatment and live as healthy and independent a life as possible.

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#### Who can qualify:

A child (or young adult) may qualify if they:

- Live in **Michigan**
  - Are **under age 21** (some conditions eligible through age 26)
  - Have a **medically qualifying chronic condition**
  - Meet **medical eligibility criteria** (income is *not* required for enrollment — but income affects cost-sharing)
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#### Medical conditions commonly covered:

*examples – not an exhaustive list*

- Cystic fibrosis
- Spina bifida
- Sickle cell disease
- Diabetes (Type 1)
- Cerebral palsy
- Hearing loss requiring aids or cochlear implants
- Congenital heart disease
- Muscular dystrophy
- Epilepsy (certain types)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Severe asthma (specific cases)
- Metabolic disorders (e.g., PKU)



## Children's Special Health Care Services (CSHCS)

### Services provided:

CSHCS focuses on **specialty and medically necessary care**, not general primary care.

### Covered services may include:

#### Medical Care

- Visits with pediatric specialists
- Diagnostic testing
- Certain surgeries and procedures
- Hospital care related to the condition

#### Medical Equipment

- Hearing aids
- Cochlear implant services
- Orthopedic braces
- Medical supplies related to the qualifying condition

#### Care Coordination

- Help scheduling specialty care
- Referrals to providers
- Transition planning to adult health care

#### Family Support

- Guidance on insurance
- Community resource referrals
- Case management assistance