

## STATE OF MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LANSING

ELIZABETH HERTEL

**Date**: August 7, 2023

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**To**: Health Care Professionals and Community Partners

**From**: Christina Herring Johnson, Michigan WIC Director

**Subject:** WIC Anthropometric and Laboratory Information Requests

In March 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) gave the U. S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) the authority to waive physical presence and other qualified administrative requirements that were necessary to provide assistance to WIC participants during the COVID-19 pandemic. As we approach the end of the FFCRA Waivers on August 9, 2023, new waivers under the American Rescue Plan Act 2021 (ARPA) were offered to WIC State Agencies to waive Physical Presence and offer Remote Benefit Services through September 2026.

The MDHHS WIC Program has elected to opt into these ARPA waivers effective August 10, 2023. WIC clinics statewide will return to in-person services by this date, and remote services will be available only when necessary to ensure Program access. Remote services will continue to require anthropometric (weight, length/height, head circumference) and hematological (hemoglobin or hematocrit) data. Your assistance in sharing this data can help WIC staff complete a comprehensive health and nutrition assessment. Michigan WIC would like to enhance our partnership with you by streamlining data sharing.

WIC can accept current anthropometric and hematological data from trusted partners using the <u>WIC Anthropometric and Laboratory Information Request</u>. Forms are to be sent to the client's local WIC clinic or returned to the client. If this data is accessible through a client portal, the client may share this information with the WIC clinic, and it does not need to be duplicated on the form.

As a reminder, please follow your policies and procedures for sharing client information with the WIC Program. It is WIC's policy that clients must sign our <u>Authorization to Release WIC Information</u> form prior to contacting or sharing information with partners.

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