



# MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH

## MCH Director Communiqué

Season’s Greetings and welcome to the first issue of the new quarterly Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) Maternal Child Health (MCH) Bulletin! Our goal is to inform partners and stakeholders of updates key to serving the maternal and child health population in Missouri.

The combined Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2022 Title V Application and FFY 2020 Annual Report was submitted by DHSS, as the designated state Title V agency, in advance of the September 1, 2021 deadline, for allocation and administration of FFY 2022 block grant funding. The annual federal review by HRSA/MCHB occurred on November 17th, and, as is the norm, the reviewers noted strengths and challenges of the state MCH/Title V Program and offered technical assistance to address the identified challenges. A formal summary of the review will be provided by HRSA/MCHB in the near future.

The FFY 2022 Title V Application and Annual Report can be accessed at <https://health.mo.gov/living/families/mch-block-grant/pdf/title-v-application-annual-report.pdf>.

Although reviewing the document in its entirety may be time-prohibitive, I encourage you to read the Executive Summary, starting on p. 7, which provides a brief introduction and overview of the state’s MCH Block Grant Application/Annual Report.

We want to express our gratitude to all our internal and external stakeholders who continue working tirelessly to advance the health and well-being of Missouri’s mothers, infants, children, adolescents, and children and youth with special health care needs, and their families. As we approach the New Year, I look forward to a renewed collective focus on proactively addressing ongoing and emerging issues impacting Missouri’s MCH population.

May your holidays be filled with health, peace and joy!

*Martha*

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## Program Highlights

### *SHCN new home*

In October, the Bureau of Special Health Care Needs (SHCN) transitioned from the Division of Community and Public Health to the Division of Senior and Disability Services. The Jefferson City team members transitioned to 912 Wildwood and will continue working with staff from across the state to serve this vulnerable, but often resilient, population. The programs within the Bureau continue to be essential Title V partners, and we look forward to continuing working with them to address the unique needs of children and youth with SHCN and their families.

### *Stakeholder engagement survey*

We will be kicking off our stakeholder engagement survey to engage stakeholders and partners in the ongoing development and implementation of the FFY 2021-2025 MCH state action plan. The link to participate in the survey will be shared separately. We value your input!

## News of Note

### *Covid-19 vaccination*

While overall Covid-19 vaccination rates have increased, uptake of the Covid-19 vaccine by pregnant women has been lower than that of non-pregnant women. In addition, vaccination coverage for pregnant women differs by race and ethnicity, with vaccination coverage being lowest for non-Hispanic Black pregnant women (15.6%) as of September 18, 2021. DHSS is developing provider and patient resources to promote vaccine uptake among women who are pregnant, recently pregnant (including those who are lactating), trying to get pregnant, or might become pregnant in the future. The resources will be shared when available.

It's the protection many families have been waiting for: a COVID-19 vaccine to protect younger children. Children ages 5-11 years can now receive the vaccine, and you can help promote Missouri's vaccination efforts by guiding parents and/or caregivers to make an informed decision about the vaccine. For a list of commonly asked questions on what parents need to know, visit the [parents and kids FAQ](#). To follow COVID-19 vaccine efforts among all ages across the state visit the [Covid-19 dashboard](#).

## MCH Resources and Tools

### *Covid-19 resources*

- MMWR: COVID-19–Associated Deaths After SARS-CoV-2 Infection During Pregnancy — Mississippi, March 1, 2020–October 6, 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7047e2.htm>
- MMWR: Risk for Stillbirth Among Women With and Without COVID-19 at Delivery Hospitalization — United States, March 2020–September 2021, <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7047e1.htm>
- COVID-19 Severity among Women of Reproductive Age with Symptomatic Laboratory-Confirmed SARS-CoV-2 by Pregnancy Status – United States, Jan 1, 2020 – Sep 30, 2021, <https://www.researchsquare.com/article/rs-1090075/v1>
- Massachusetts Department of Public Health: FAQs on COVID-19 Vaccine and Children & Youth with Special Health Needs, <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/children-youth-with-special-health-needs-and-the-covid-19-vaccine>
- KFF: Vaccine FAQ Videos - The Conversation Series on Kids & the COVID-19 Vaccine: The Top 5 Things Parents Want to Know About the COVID-19 Vaccine for 5-11 Year Olds, <https://www.greaterthancovid.org/theconversation-children-and-vaccines/>

### *CDC health communication resources*

- Communicating with your audience in a way that is accurate, respectful, and inclusive of everyone is sometimes challenging. The Centers for Disease Control has developed a new resource for health communicators. The [Health Equity Guiding Principles for Inclusive Communication](#) emphasize the importance of addressing all people inclusively and respectfully in order to promote health equity.

You can also listen to the Gateway for Health Communication [podcast](#) series.

# Save the Date

## [2022 AMCHP \(Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs\) Annual Conference](#)

March 5-8, 2022, Renaissance Washington DC Downtown, Washington, DC: The theme for the 2022 conference is *Reflecting on our Past, Shaping our Future*. In order to shape a better future for MCH populations, we must first acknowledge how we arrived here, learn how to articulate our “why,” and then commit to action. Conference content will be offered in-person and through a virtual conference platform to accommodate participants. Additional conference details can be accessed [here](#).

## [Title V MCH Virtual Partnership Meeting Series](#)

January 27, March 31, and April 28, 2022 2:00-3:30pm CT: HRSA’s Maternal and Child Health Bureau is partnering with AMCHP to host a series of Virtual Title V Partnership Meetings. This meeting series supports the Title V MCH Services Block Grant Program work to support the health of women, infants, children and youth including those with special health care needs, and families. The sessions will address implementation of Title V programs centered in health equity and social justice frameworks with a particular emphasis on fostering trust and building community partnerships in the midst of COVID-19. Additional details along with registration information will be shared by AMCHP in December.

### **Title V Maternal Child Health Services Block Grant**

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You received this message because you are identified as a maternal child health stakeholder. This newsletter is produced quarterly by the MCH/Title V team at the Department of Health and Senior Services.

Email [Nina.nganga@health.mo.gov](mailto:Nina.nganga@health.mo.gov) to request inclusion of your event, resource, or update in our eNewsletter.