



Ottawa County Department of Public Health

Hearing Screening Program

Notice Regarding Children with Digitally Programmable Shunts & other Implanted Medical Devices that may be Affected by Magnets

All local county health departments throughout the state of Michigan provide hearing screening services under Act No. 368, Public Acts of 1978, Part 93, Hearing and Vision.

Michigan schools work collaboratively with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and the Local Health Departments (LHD) to allow Hearing Screening Program technicians to perform screenings in all public, private, and charter schools as well as formal preschool programs.

Screenings are performed with portable audiometers and the audiometer headphones have magnets with large field gradients. The headphones have been tested in a professional medical laboratory by Codman, a Johnson and Johnson Company. The results of the tests indicate that children with digitally programmable shunts or other implanted medical devices (pacemakers, Vagus Nerve Stimulators for preventing seizures, Baclofen Pumps for spinal cord injuries, etc.) may be at risk for unintended changes in the device settings because of the magnetic strength.

In order to best protect children, it is imperative that the technicians are informed which children have digitally programmable shunts or implanted medical devices so that hearing screening services are not provided. Parents of children with implanted medical devices who are interested in hearing screening should contact their physician for a referral to an audiologist.

Ottawa County Department of Public Health
Hearing Screening Program
12251 James St. ste 400 Holland, MI 49424
P: 616-393-5266
F: 616-494-5546