



VISION AND HEARING PROGRAM

HOWARD COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

410-313-7210 | 410-313-7500

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Maura J. Rossman, M.D., Health Officer

INFORMATION LETTER FOR VISION AND HEARING SCREENING

Dear Parent:

During the school year, the Howard County Health Department, in collaboration with your child's school, will offer vision and hearing screenings for your child. Adequate vision and hearing are very important for your child's school performance.

Vision and hearing screenings are required by Maryland State Law for students in Pre-K, Kindergarten, First and Eighth grades. Your child will also be screened if they are new to the state of Maryland school system and a previous vision and hearing record has not been transferred with their medical records. Your child will receive these screenings unless you object in writing. Please send a letter to your child's school health room if you chose to opt out of the Health Department screenings. Vision and hearing screenings are performed by trained health department technicians.

The health department uses pure-tone audiometers for hearing screenings. For the vision screenings, a hand-held vision screener is used. The child focuses on a smiley face on the camera and within a few seconds a series of measurements are calculated to detect a possible vision problem.

If your child does not pass the vision screen, a letter will be sent from your child's school recommending that you take your child to a medical provider or clinic for a more complete vision evaluation and a detailed result of the screening test will be included.

If your child does not pass the initial hearing screen, a second hearing screening will be performed on another date at the school. If the results of the second hearing screen indicate that your child may have a hearing problem, a letter will be sent from your child's school recommending that you take your child to a medical provider or clinic for a complete hearing evaluation.

Should you have any questions, please contact your school nurse or the Vision and Hearing Screening Program Supervisor at 410-313-7210. If you need information about the Maryland Children's Health Insurance Program, please contact the Howard County Health Department at 410-313-5845.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Jacqueline Douge in black ink.

Jacqueline Douge, MD, MPH, FAAP
Medical Director
Bureau of Child Health
Howard County Health Department

Handwritten signature of Kerrie Wagaman in blue ink.

Kerrie Wagaman, RN
Coordinator of Health Services
Howard County Public School System