

April 21, 2023

School Hearing Screening Frequently Asked Questions

- **Why are the mobile units conducting hearing screenings at schools?**

The Indiana Department of Health's Division of Emergency Preparedness (DEP) mobile units provide public health services including, but not limited to, routine immunizations, COVID-19 vaccination and testing, and hearing screenings. They serve as an additional resource available to local health departments and schools to support the work of routine immunizations and screenings required by Indiana Code.

- **How do I request a mobile unit to conduct hearing screenings for our students?**

The mobile unit can be requested by any school nurse or school administrator by contacting their school liaison or the IDOH Chief Nurse Consultant (CNC). School liaisons who have received a request should contact the IDOH CNC at backtoschool@health.in.gov to complete a few screening questions, which will ensure local resources have been exhausted. Once the screening is complete, the CNC will refer the request to the mobile response operations manager to discuss scheduling and logistics.

A hearing screening mobile unit may also be requested using the form available on the [IDOH DEP Mobile Response Website](#).

- **How much notice does IDOH need to schedule a mobile screening or immunization clinic?**

Any school interested in hosting a hearing screening should contact the IDOH CNC or complete the online request form at least three to four weeks prior to proposed date of the event.

- **Are consents required for services?**

Parental consent for screening services is not required. However, your school will need to make parents aware that hearing screening is being provided to students on the scheduled date/time.

- **What if a student fails the screening?**

At the completion of the screening event, the school will be provided with a list of the screening results along with a document from the Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Education outlining next steps for parents whose children failed the initial screening.

- **What does the school need to provide on the day of the screening event?**

The school will need:

- Mobile unit parking convenient to entry/exit doors to school provides for easy unloading and loading of equipment.

- School will need to provide any necessary interpreters for ESL students.
- A school representative or school liaison to facilitate coordination of students and processes on date of event. This individual will confirm consents are signed if needed, provide crowd control as needed, coordinate the transition between classes, and act as a point person on behalf of the school.
- Appropriate space for screening event
 - Space for privacy as necessary for the scheduled event
 - Room should have readily available electrical outlets
 - Space to hold mobile unit supplies, such as:
 - Testing equipment
 - Staff coats
 - Personal items
 - Consumable resources (food/drink)
- Equipment required for specific event, such as:
 - Tables and chairs
 - Wi-Fi signal if the team isn't allowed to use external mi-fi
 - Staff restroom access

