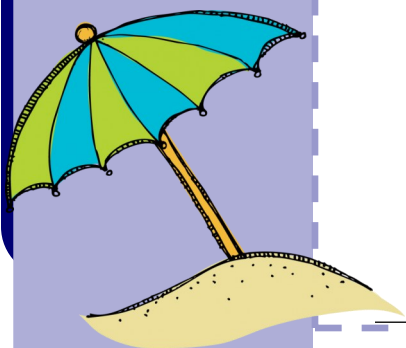




**SPECIAL
POINTS OF
INTEREST:**

- **Hearing & Vision Screening**
- **Eat Safe Fish**
- **HIV/STI Testing**
- **Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment (KOHA)**



Dickinson-Iron District Health Department

Public Health Press

SUMMER 2026

JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Free Hearing & Vision Screening

DIDHD will be offering FREE hearing and vision screenings for preschool and school-age children at clinics throughout the summer. Children ages 3–18 are encouraged to attend, including those who missed screenings previously offered at their daycare or school, as well as homeschooled students.

Michigan Law requires that children entering school be tested for hearing and vision problems prior to enrollment. In addition, health care professionals encourage young children to be screened to detect problems at an early age. School vision screening programs have demonstrated that too frequently children enter school with vision defects. Some serious defects cannot be corrected at school age while treatment in the preschool years can be highly successful. Preschoolers are tested for clearness of vision, muscle balance, and any obvious symptoms of eyesight problems.

Five to ten percent of preschoolers screened may be referred to a professional eye care specialist for further examination.

Hearing loss is a common problem. A hearing problem can affect a child's behavior or performance in the classroom. Seven out of ten children need treatment for an ear problem before they reach the age of four. A child who has trouble hearing may hear you correctly at times, appear to ignore you at other times, or show signs of speech difficulty. Hearing screenings by a public health technician can identify hearing problems.

Clinic times vary, please contact us to schedule at 906-774-1868 (Dickinson County) or 906-265-9913 (Iron County).



Eat Safe Fish

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) has released the *2026 Eat Safe Fish Guide* to help Michigan residents choose fish that are best for them and their families to eat.

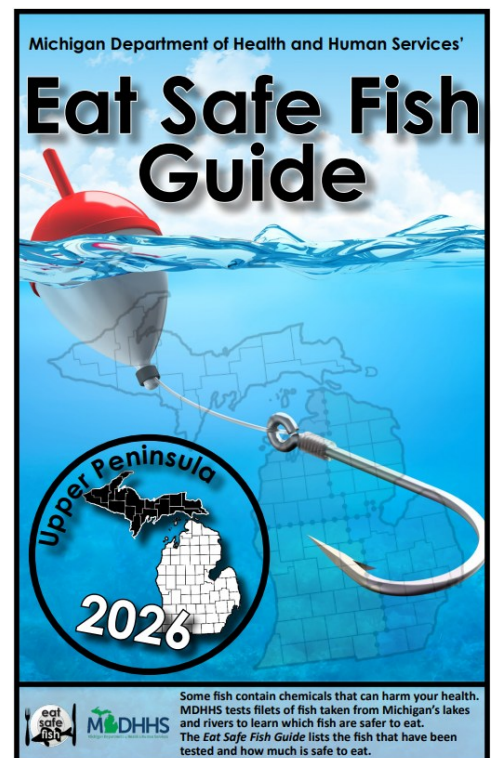
The Eat Safe Fish Guide provides consumption guidelines for eating locally caught fish. Guidelines are based on levels of chemicals found in the portions of fish people eat, typically the filets. Test results from MDHHS Bureau of Laboratories are used to determine what can be safe for people to eat over the long term.

MDHHS *Eat Safe Fish Guides* are not laws or regulations. They provided free guidance to help people choose fish that are safe to eat and less likely to affect their health due to harmful chemicals. The guidelines are set to be protective of all individuals, including children, pregnant or breastfeeding women and people with health issues including cancer and diabetes.

For more information on how to buy, eat or prepare safe fish, or to get the *2026 Eat Safe Fish Guide* for your region, visit Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish and select Find Your Area.

Catching fish • Buying fish • Eating fish

To obtain your free *Eat Safe Fish Guide*, call MDHHS at 800-648-6942 or visit Michigan.gov/EatSafeFish.



Have you been tested?

About 1 in 8 people in the United States who have HIV do not know they have it. Some people who test positive for HIV were not aware of their risk. Everyone between the ages of 13 and 64 are encouraged to get tested for HIV at least once and more often if you do things that might increase your risk for getting HIV. Advances have been made in antiretroviral therapy to treat HIV and medications to prevent HIV infection for high-risk individuals.



It's equally important to get tested for other sexually transmitted infections (STIs). If you're sexually active, you should get tested once a year and encourage your partner(s) to do the same. Having other STIs increases your chance of getting HIV, so it's important to get treatment for any STI as soon as possible.

Our nurse can provide HIV and Hep C results in 20 minutes with a simple finger poke. Call to schedule a HIV/STI test today and discuss concerns you may have. 906-265-4151 (Iron County) or 906-779-7237 (Dickinson County).

Kindergarten Oral Health Assessments (KOHA)

Early detection and treatment of dental problems can help children succeed in school. That is why the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) created the Kindergarten Oral Health Assessment Program (KOHA). All children in Michigan enrolled in their first year of school, either kindergarten or 1st grade, are now required to receive a dental screening. These screenings are provided free of charge by Smiles on Wheels through DIDHD. Smiles on Wheels will visit all districts throughout the school year to provide the screenings.

The Importance of Dental Assessments:

Cavities are common. Tooth decay (cavities) is the most common chronic disease in children. Almost half of Michigan Head Start children have tooth decay, and close to one-third have tooth decay that hasn't been treated.

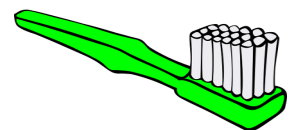
Cavities can cause pain. Pain can make it hard for children to pay attention in school, prevent them from eating well, and keep them awake at night. All of this can affect their ability to learn and perform well in school.

Poor dental health affects physical health, behavior, and academic and social development. Dental problems can affect a child's ability to learn and their attendance and performance in school. In fact, children with poor dental health are three times more likely to miss school because of dental problems. Poor oral health can also affect socialization, self-esteem, and behavior.

Children's oral health is a key public health priority. Ensuring that children have access to dental care will help them grow, develop, and succeed. Dental assessments identify untreated dental disease and refer children for needed care, connect children and their families to dental homes, raise awareness of the importance of good oral health among children and families, and are an opportunity for oral health education.

A dental screening is simple and fast. A dental professional will look into your child's mouth and note what they see on the screening form. No treatment is done. It's simply a quick look in the mouth. They will let you know if your child needs to see a dentist. Children do have the option to have the screening and form filled out by their dentist as long as they are seen within 6 months of the start of school.

For more information, visit <https://www.michigan.gov/mdhhs/adult-child-serv/childrenfamilies/familyhealth/oralhealth/koha>.





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Serving you since 1936

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Mission Statement:

The mission of the Dickinson-Iron District Health Department is to assure the highest possible level of health for the people of the communities it serves. To fulfill this mission, the Department works with individuals and organizations to prevent premature death, disability, illness and injury, to prolong life, and to promote the public health through disease prevention and control, health promotion and healthy environments, and through the provision of direct services for particularly vulnerable high risk population groups.



WE LIVE HERE. WE WORK HERE. WE CARE.



DICKINSON-IRON DISTRICT HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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