



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PREVENTION SERVICES

September 1, 2021

The Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) Sensory Program would like to provide the following updates:

ADHS SENSORY PROGRAM UPDATES:

- **NEW:** As a result of the continued impact of COVID-19, the ADHS Sensory Screening Program will implement a temporary extension of the 45 day requirement to conduct hearing screening. The requirement has been extended to **January 31, 2022**. The period for these considerations and recommendations is effective beginning September 1, 2020 until January 31, 2022. If you are unsure how to proceed with screenings, please email SensoryProgram@azdhs.gov and we will work with you to provide additional guidance.
- The considerations outlined are to be applied by all schools in the State of Arizona that have resumed in-person learning on March 15, 2021 as outlined in the [Executive Order Requiring Schools to Offer In-Person Learning](#). Screenings should be carried out for the eligible students, following school reopening protocols, per the official language of K–12 hearing screening requirements and according to [9 A.A.C. 13, Article 1 Hearing Screening](#).
- The ADHS Sensory Screening Program does **NOT** have official rules for vision screening. This means that there are **NO** requirements currently in place in regards to training, screening, or reporting of data to ADHS. While there are no requirements in place currently, the ADHS Sensory Screening Program encourages all schools and agencies to continue performing annual vision screening as outlined and determined by their school or agency.

COVID-19 Considerations

- It is important that when screenings are occurring that schools follow the Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC) [Operational Strategy for K-12 Schools through Phased Prevention](#) guidance. This includes strategies on how to safely open for in-person instructions and implementing preventative measures.
- Please review the ADHS Sensory Screening Program [COVID-19 CONSIDERATIONS: CHECKLIST AND GUIDELINES FOR SCHOOLS - Hearing and Vision Screening](#).

The Sensory Screening Program will provide continuous updates throughout the year based on programmatic updates, local trends, and statewide data. All questions and inquiries should be emailed to sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov.