



UPDATES FROM THE CAPITOL

June 11 - 24, 2024

UPDATED HOUSE SESSION CALENDAR

The Michigan Legislature has released the updated House Session calendar for the remainder of the year, spanning from July to December of 2024. Click [HERE](#) to view a PDF of the updated calendar.

\$17M WELLNESS INITIATIVE TO IMPROVE HEALTH EQUITY IN UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

During a recent visit to a Neighborhood Wellness Center in Detroit, Lt. Governor Garlin Gilchrist II highlighted the state's \$17 million investment into 22 centers aimed at reducing racial health disparities. These centers provide free preventive health screenings and are strategically located to serve underserved communities. The centers offer services including screenings for blood pressure, diabetes, and cholesterol, as well as flu and COVID-19 testing.

In addition to preventive health screenings, the centers also focus on substance use disorder prevention, piloting programs at seven sites with \$250,000 from opioid settlement funds. These pilot sites offer free naloxone access and prevention education for combating the opioid crisis. Community health workers are available to assist with social determinants of health, including food, transportation, and housing. They also provide health counseling and referrals to primary care and senior services. This initiative is just one example of the state's ongoing efforts to improve health care accessibility.

Find a [Neighborhood Wellness Center](#) near you.

SUPREME COURT DECISION PRESERVES ACCESS TO ABORTION PILL

The U.S. Supreme Court dismissed a challenge to federal regulations surrounding the abortion medication mifepristone recently, which means continued access, most notably includes by mail to patients, to the medication here in Michigan. The decision, which rejected claims of health risks associated with the medication, disappointed challenge-advocates who had sought tighter restrictions.

Governor Gretchen Whitmer praised the ruling, emphasizing its importance in protecting reproductive rights as she stated, "Mifepristone will remain safe, legal, and available to Michiganders."

This marks the first time the Supreme Court has addressed abortion since its 2022 decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

FREE GUN LOCKS FOR NATIONAL GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH

In acknowledgement of National Gun Violence Awareness Month, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) and Michigan State Police (MSP) have joined forces to distribute free firearm locks to Michigan residents. These cable-style gun locks, provided by Project ChildSafe, aim to prevent children's access to unsecured firearms. With \$500,000 in state funding from the Fiscal Year 2024 budget, 75,000 gun locks have been made available while supplies last. This initiative aligns with efforts to address the rising incidence of firearm-related injuries among children in Michigan and the United States. [Public Act 17 of 2023](#) mandates that firearms are stored unloaded and locked with a locking device or stored in a locked box if otherwise accessible to children. You can pick up your free gun locks from one of the below locations near you:

- [MDHHS county offices](#)
- [Local health departments](#)
- [MSP Post](#)
- [Project ChildSafe Police Partners](#)

Instructions on installing gun locks can be found on the item's package and at [Project ChildSafe](#).

SCALE TIPS AT 1.8M+ NEW ENROLLEES AS MEDICAID RENEWAL PERIOD COMES TO AN END

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) concluded its year-long Medicaid redetermination process, renewing coverage for over 141,000 beneficiaries in May. This brings the total Medicaid enrollment to 2.6 million, with over 1.8 million renewals completed during the past year. This number is expected to increase further as the department processes forms from an additional 94,723 people who have until June 30 to submit their applications. MDHHS Director Elizabeth Hertel touts strategies such as extending renewals, focusing on outreach, and implementing procedures approved through June as key components in making this "the largest renewal process our state has ever conducted." As the redetermination process comes to a close, the department reminds Medicaid recipients to submit renewal paperwork promptly and explore alternative coverage options if necessary.