



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

PREVENTION SERVICES

July 1, 2020

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

ADHS SENSORY PROGRAM UPDATE:

- ADHS Sensory Program provided a hearing and vision screening update on April 23, 2020 and June 2, 2020. The updates can be found on the [ADHS Sensory Program webpage](#). Please review the information.
- ADHS Sensory Program will continue to monitor impacts of COVID-19 to the program. ADHS Sensory Program will post hearing and vision recommendations on or before August 1 that outline considerations to be implemented during the 2020/2021 school year.
- Sensory Program guidance will align with CDC, ADHS, and ADE guidance to consider practices that support increased protection, hand washing, and physical distancing.

UPDATE FOR HEARING SCREENING CERTIFICATION RENEWAL:

- Requirements in [R9-13-115](#) were added to allow individuals already certified to have a 'period of time' to renew their certification compliant with the revised requirements specified in amended R9-13-108. The 'period of time' to renew a certification began on July 2, 2019, the effective date of the new rules. In applying R9-13-115, many will need to renew certification by June 30, 2020.
- In early June, Dr. Cara Christ, Director of ADHS signed an [Administrative Order](#) authorizing temporary waivers and deferments.
 - "An Arizona Department of Health Services' Division ("Division"), after determining that a requirement to renew a license/certification or receive approval to participate in a Department Program is no longer reasonable due to the COVID-19 pandemic, shall: "Temporarily waive or defer requirements to renew a license/certification or approval to participate in the Department Program that have an expiration date between June 1, 2020 and September 1, 2020, by six months from the expiration date."
 - "Unless rescinded earlier by the Arizona Department of Health Services, this Order shall be in effect until the Declaration of Emergency issued by the Governor of Arizona on March 11, 2020, is terminated."
- ADHS Sensory Program will apply this guidance to temporarily defer the hearing screening certification renewal requirements as specified in R9-13-115(B) by six months. ***The revised***

expiration date is now 12/31/2020. All information is subject to change as the situation is fluid and may require adjustments.

- Certified screeners can continue to provide hearing and vision screening through 12/31/2020 with an expired certification. ADHS Sensory Program recommends that screeners continue to follow procedures as trained.
- ADHS Sensory Program is exploring the possibility of online or alternative training permitted to issue or renew a license/certification.
- Link to the completed Hearing Screening Rulemaking webpage:
<https://www.azdhs.gov/director/administrative-counsel-rules/rules/index.php#rulemakings-completed-2019>. This webpage includes history of the rulemaking, including stakeholder comments and Department responses.

Thank you for your patience as we work to provide program clarifications. We appreciate the input and partnership of all stakeholders. We look forward to continued work to improve early detection and address vision and hearing needs in children and adolescents across Arizona. Please feel free to contact the Sensory Program at sensoryprogram@azdhs.gov with any questions.