

April 21, 2023

School Hearing Screening

The Indiana Department of Health (IDOH) has launched an initiative to make mobile units available to complete hearing screening at schools. The units are available for students in grades 1, 4, 7 and 10, as well as any student transferring in or suspected of having a hearing impairment, as required by [Indiana Code 20-34-3-14](#).

Request Process

1. Any school nurse, administrator or school liaison who would like to request an IDOH mobile hearing screening unit should contact the school liaison in their county or Lorrie Ramsey, chief nurse consultant (CNC), at backtoschool@health.in.gov. An online request form may also be completed on the [IDOH website](#) for review by CNC.

Possible questions for school liaisons to ask to check eligibility for mobile hearing screening:

- Has the school/liaison attempted to find local resources to provide the service?
Possible resources within the county that could complete hearing screenings:
 - School staff trained to provide hearing screenings
 - College/university students/staff
 - LHD resources who are trained
 - Organizations who support individuals with hearing impairments
- When was the last time this screening was offered?
- Have the local health department or local healthcare providers been asked to help?
- How many students will need to be screened? At what grade level(s)?

2. If it is determined that all local resources have been exhausted and the school needs assistance, the chief nurse consultant will refer the request to the mobile response operations manager.
3. Once the request reaches the mobile response manager, the manager will identify the region where the request is located and forward to the appropriate mobile response supervisor within that geographic area. The local supervisor will then make the initial contact with the school or school liaison to establish a date that works best for both mobile unit and school to provide the screenings.

What is needed from school to host a site?

- A room allowing for privacy for each student receiving screening
- Electrical power
- Parking area for mobile unit
- A school liaison, school nurse or other designee to work with the testing team. This individual will work to coordinate students coming to and from classrooms to the testing location, including any hallway management needed during the testing periods. This individual also works to obtain any additional student information if requested.
- Place to hold mobile unit supplies such as testing equipment, coats, personal items and consumable resources, food/drinks
- Tables and chairs (numbers of each to be determined by number of students who need to be screened)
- Interpreters if needed for ESL students.
- Wi-Fi signal; if team is not allowed to access, external mi-fi can be brought by team
- Access to specific restroom for staff to use

