

**1. What have been your biggest challenges of screening during COVID-19?**

- Virtual phone call screenings - getting that set up and running
- Getting paperwork back - prior to COVID would have parents bring paperwork the day of
  - ESL families having a hard time with all the paperwork
  - Lack of paperwork in other languages
  - Interpreters usually work best when via phone or in person, not so much via Google Meet/Zoom
- Families forgetting about screening
- Getting screening completed in the 30-90 day window
- Reduction of referrals in virtual screenings - is the parent report data reliable?
  - Social-emotional reports seem to be similar as in-person screenings, but developmental screening referrals seem lower
  - Vision/Hearing referrals - also lower than in person due to parent report
  - Speech screenings - hard to rely on parent report since many parents may not know what to expect
- Distance learning caused a delay in getting kids screened, so by the time they were referred to ECSE they were full, so now they won't be receiving services or a placement in a timely manner
  - There are always struggles in getting kids screened in that timeframe ut especially
- Working with diverse families
  - Working with liaisons to help families set up appointments, go through summary results
  - Worries about over-referring
- Trying to get more kids in means parent discussion can be rushed
  - Parents needing even more support this year - worries about missing doctor appointments due to COVID - reassurance and encouragement!!
- Cleaning materials in between each student, especially hearing/vision materials
- Making the switch to MPSI - concerns that the passing norms for younger ages may not be reliable/accurate

**2. What have been positive changes or things you would like to continue for future screenings?**

- Using Eleyo to send text message reminders
- Offering virtual screenings
  - Have seen a better turnout
  - Families do not have to drive in - easier if families struggle with transportation
  - May offer for incoming K students
  - Easier to find interpreters for phone calls rather than in-person
  - Sending paperwork via mail ahead of time

- Set up appointment once paperwork is received so they are not holding spots for other families - no appointment until the paperwork is completed
- Paperwork and Registration - moved fully online
  - Google (Forms and Docs) - include reminders to complete ASQ
  - Pull all the data/paperwork needed
  - Able to connect to Google Translate
  - An easy way to send reminders to families about their appointment
  - Online ASQs - remember there is an overall fee and fee per student - scoring is all done: <https://agesandstages.com/asq-online/>
- Offering flexible screening times and locations - evenings and weekends
  - Evening appointments fill up fast - children can be tired but it may be the only time that works - holding classes the same night
  - Saturday morning appointments have been successful
  - Screening at the library and local childcare and daycare centers, private preschools
- Screening Tool “Hacks”
  - Buying small binders for the rhyming, alliteration, etc. cards to keep more organized and clean
  - Cleaning products that sanitize and dry in 15 seconds
  - Buying small tote boxes to store each kit:  
[https://www.amazon.com/IRIS-USA-Inc-Latching-Box-Purple/dp/B01H2NWDXY/r?ef=sr\\_1\\_9?dchild=1&keywords=paper+storage+box&qid=1618600624&sr=8-9](https://www.amazon.com/IRIS-USA-Inc-Latching-Box-Purple/dp/B01H2NWDXY/r?ef=sr_1_9?dchild=1&keywords=paper+storage+box&qid=1618600624&sr=8-9)
- Using virtual data tracking spreadsheets, including a tab to share with ECSE staff for entering referral follow-up information

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**Resources:**

Virtual Hearing Screening Parent Report - see handouts on [mnafee.org](http://mnafee.org)

Virtual Vision Screening Parent Report - see handouts on [mnafee.org](http://mnafee.org)

**Information from MDE**

- The funding is stable through 21-22 at the same state aid level as given in 18-19. But I understand screening also receives general fund or funds from other early learning programs which may be tight as well.
  - If you go over 21-22 funds you will not be
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- The CARES and ESSER - Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief funds are available for screening needs  
<https://education.mn.gov/MDE/dse/health/covid19/cares/>

- In terms of screening before KG, hopefully the 90 day timeframe will still be in place for this fall for kindergartners. And because funding is stabilized the same amount comes in even if they are screened over 90 days.
- I know a lot of districts are looking at screening this summer and offering flexible times so it is more accessible for families: evenings, Saturdays, etc.
- At least one said they are getting more copies of completed screens from clinics who provide ASQ's also...so they do not need to screen those children. Just assign the MARSS PS code and state aid category for 'clinic'.
- Some are finding the ability to offer family choice of distance or in person this spring has been beneficial for families and may result in more screenings.