

# **Supporting Schools & Families Access to Eye Glasses and Vision Services**

*October 2018*

*Note: Play this ppt in slideshow mode for links to become active*

# Programs Outlined

- Healthy Kids Program
- First Nations Health Benefits
- BC Doctors of Optometry Program – Eye See, Eye Learn

# Premium Assistance

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/health-drug-coverage/msp/bc-residents/premiums/regular-premium-assistance>

- Reduces cost of monthly medical services premium
- For families whose 'adjusted net income' is below \$42,000, (or higher depending on various factors)
- Adjusted net income depends on:
  - # dependents in household (children, students, elderly)
  - Total net income based on previous tax year
- [Premium Assistance Application Form](#) – take this with you to schools, client homes. Identify who can support client in filling out this form

# Healthy Kids Program

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/health/managing-your-health/healthy-women-children/child-teen-health/dental-eyeglasses>

Provides basic dental, optical and hearing assistance supplements to children under 19yrs, in low-income families.

Families don't need to apply if they already are Regular Premium Assistance.

To maintain Regular Premium Assistance and Healthy Kids eligibility, you must:

- File your taxes every year with Canada Revenue Agency (even if you have made very little money, have to go through these steps)
- Update your MSP account with any changes in your family (spouse, or addition of children)

# Healthy Kids Program Vision Benefits

- Children are eligible for prescription glasses once a year. This includes lenses and basic frames. MSP covers eye examinations for children.
- Contact lenses are not included. All prescriptions must be current and meet certain criteria. Ask your optical provider for more information.

# Healthy Kids Program

- Some offices can check in their system if family has the healthy kids coverage
- Coverage begins at the start of the month following once family been approved for premium assistance
- Encourage family to call the office ahead of time to ensure they accept healthy kids and inquire about additional charges.

# Resources

- PHN School health manual – list of optometrists who accept healthy kids, speak languages etc.

## Section 6: Vision

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### Vision

[Request for Eye Examination form](#)

[BC Healthy Kids \(for families to request free eye glasses\)](#)

[Letter re changes to free eye glasses program \(Oct 2018\)](#)

### PHN Resources:

- ◆ [Eye Exam Reminder \(newsletter insert\)](#)
- ◆ [List of Optometrists in Vancouver \(List of Optometrists by CHA - language and fee information included\)](#)

- Vision team universally screens K children each year.

# First Nations Benefits

- The Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program is a national program that provides coverage to registered First Nations and recognized Inuit for a range of medically necessary items and services that are not covered by other plans and programs.
- Includes vision services and many others



# First Nations Benefits

## Eligibility

The FNHA Health Benefits program offers health-related goods and services to any First Nations person (or child under 1 year of age of a First Nations person who meets all of these criteria) who:

- has a Canadian status number; **and**
- is a resident of British Columbia (as defined by BC's Medical Service Plan) and having active Medical Service Plan coverage; **and**
- is not covered under any other benefits provided by the Federal Government or First Nations organization through self-government or land claims agreements.

# First Nations Health Benefits

<https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/services/first-nations-inuit-health/non-insured-health-benefits/benefits-information/vision-care-benefits-information.html>



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## Eye and Vision Care Benefits Information

[\(PDF Version - 47 K\)](#)

### Questions and Answers

#### What Eye and Vision Care Benefits are covered by the Non-Insured Health Benefits (NIHB) Program?

- Eye examinations, when they are not insured by the province/territory (e.g. eye exams for children, elderly and diabetic clients in some provinces/territories);
- Eyeglasses that are prescribed by a vision-care provider;
- Eyeglass repairs;
- Eye prosthesis (an artificial eye); and
- Other vision care benefits depending on your specific medical needs.

### Contact us

- [Contact the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program](#)

# How to Apply for Status

- Waitlist can be very long due to heavy load of applicants
- Information on Health Canada Web-site

<https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/eng/1100100032472/1100100032473>

# BC Doctors of Optometry Program for Kindergarten Kids

<http://bc.doctorsofoptometry.ca/patients/eye-see-eye-learn/>

If your child is enrolled in kindergarten for the 2018-2019 school year and is enrolled in a participating school district, s/he is eligible for a comprehensive eye exam and, if prescribed, one FREE pair of eyeglasses from a participating B.C. doctor of optometry through the Eye See ... Eye Learn® program.

**This form is valid until: August 31, 2019**



Get a FREE pair of eyeglasses  
for your kindergarten child  
during the 2018-2019 school year

Program Information for Parents/Guardians

**Eye See ...Eye Learn®**