

The West School Student Health Center Enrollment Information

The West Student Health Center is a clinic that has been established as a partnership between Portland's Health & Human Services Department - Public Health Division, Portland Public Schools and Maine Medical Center to provide more accessible physical and dental health care to Portland's children. The goal is to keep students healthy and in school. **If your child already has a regular doctor or dentist, he/she can still utilize Student Health Center services.** When there is regular provider involved with a child's care, the work of the Student Health Center is to supplement and complement the services of these core providers and communicate with them on an on-going basis as appropriate.

Eligibility

Any West School student with a completed and parent-signed enrollment form on file (see attached) may use the services of the Student Health Center throughout the current school year. We will allow one initial visit to the Health Center with a verbal consent from the parent, but thereafter, a signed consent is required before a student can continue to access services. Students who are at least 18 years old, emancipated minors, married, or living independently, may sign permission for themselves.

Services

In most cases, students are first seen by the school nurse and referred on to the Student Health Center as appropriate. Services are offered by appointment but often same-day slots can be arranged for students with acute care needs. All students are entitled to unlimited use of the Health Center throughout the school year.

A few of the services offered at the Student Health Center are listed below.

- Treatment of acute illness or minor injury (sore throats, bronchitis, muscle strain, etc.)
- Management of chronic health conditions (acne, asthma, allergies, etc.)
- Reproductive health services including risk assessment and counseling, testing and treatment of sexually transmitted infections, birth control services for sexually active students, pregnancy testing
- Physical exams
- Immunizations
- Preventive dental services (screening, cleaning, fluoride, sealants, etc.; not restorative treatment)

Staff

The Student Health Center staff consists of a pediatrician, nurse practitioner, dental hygienist, dental health care manager and two clinical assistants. The school nurse, psychologist and social workers are not employees of the Student Health Center, but work closely with them as team members to coordinate student referrals into the clinic and assist with follow-up as needed.

Parent Involvement

A parent or legal guardian is encouraged to come in for the first Student Health Center visit with their child. This allows you to meet the Center staff and discuss any of your child's health issues that you wish to share. The Center staff would also make sure that they have a complete health history for your child. Thereafter, parents are welcome to come in whenever their child needs to be seen at the Student Health Center but they are not obligated to do so. Every effort is made to discuss an individual child's health issues and treatment with the parent or legal guardian after each visit when appropriate. Parents are also welcome to call or make an appointment to come in to the Student Health Center anytime during the school year with questions or concerns about their child's health.

(See back)

Cost for Physical Health Services

When able, we will be billing most private insurances as well as MaineCare/Medicaid. Currently, there are no co-pay fees, but families may be billed for Student Health Center services not covered by their insurance. Additionally, the cost of services provided outside the Student Health Center, such as prescriptions, lab work or diagnostic tests, are the responsibility of the student's family. For those families who do not have health insurance for their child, the Health Center staff can assist with making an application for MaineCare coverage. **No student will be denied services due to lack of insurance coverage or inability to pay.**

Cost for Dental Health Services

When able, we will be billing MaineCare/Medicaid for dental health services but are we are currently unable to bill private insurance. For those children who are privately insured or who lack dental health insurance, there currently is no fee. In the future, we hope to be able to bill privately insured students if/when this opportunity arises. The cost of any dental treatment services provided outside the Student Health Center such as x-rays, fillings, extractions and other restorative care, are the responsibility of the student's family. **Once again, no student will be denied services due to lack of insurance coverage or inability to pay.**

Confidentiality

By law, all medical, dental and mental health information kept in any student's clinic health record is confidential and will remain locked at the Health Center site. Health records will only be released from the Student Health Center with written consent from the parent, legal guardian or student as appropriate. Whenever possible, students are encouraged to share their health concerns and treatment information with their parents. However, please note that the law allows minors to seek services from health care providers for issues related to reproductive health, mental health or substance abuse without requiring parental notification. (22 M.R.S.A. can be found at <http://janus.state.me.us/legis/statutes/22/title22ch0sec0.html>) In cases where abuse or neglect is suspected, the appropriate authorities will be notified as required by law. In crisis situations, such as when a student is actively considering suicide, the parent will be notified and immediate crisis intervention will be sought.

Hours of Service

The Student Health Center is normally open Monday and Friday during the school week. Dental services are offered monthly. The hours of operation vary depending on the type of service being offered. During weekends, school vacations and holidays, the Student Health Center will be closed. We encourage you to contact your child's regular doctor or health care provider should be contacted if a health need arises during those times.

For Further Information

Listed below are phone numbers to call for further information about the West Student Health Center.

- Portland Public Health Division 874-8919
- West Student Health Center 874-8209
- Debby Tanguay, school nurse 874-8225
- Amy Minnehan, Chris Salamone & Kathy Tosney, school social workers 874-8225