



NYU Langone School Based Health Center Program

Frequently Asked Questions for Parents

1) **What is a School Based Health Center (SBHC)?**

A school-based health center (SBHC) is a facility inside a NYC school building that provides primary care services to the students who attend the schools on that campus. Most SBHC's provide a combination of primary care, mental health care, substance abuse counseling, case management, nutrition education, health education and dental health. SBHC staff may include a physician, nurse practitioner/ physician assistant, mental health professional, social worker, medical assistant and health educator.

2) **What institutions run SBHC's?**

School-based health centers are run by medical institutions usually local hospitals, medical centers, or community-based health organizations. The SBHC medical staff are not department of education (DOE) employees; however, they go through the same security checks and fingerprinting as DOE employees.

3) **Is it mandatory for me to enroll my child in the School Based Health Center (SBHC)?**

Enrolling your child is not mandatory; however, it is strongly encouraged so that your child will have access to quality comprehensive health care such as; vaccinations, comprehensive physical examinations, treatment of illnesses/injuries, receive medications, and provide other health services similar to your doctor. The health center is conveniently located in the school building to minimize your child's absence and to limit your time away from work. If your child is not enrolled, the only care that the SBHC can provide is emergency care, first aid care and those services for which minors may consent to their own treatment.

4) **How do I enroll my child in the SBHC?**

To enroll your child in the SBHC program, parents or legal guardians complete a SBHC Parental Consent Form that is available to you at the health center or school main office.

5) **What kind of care can my child receive at a SBHC?**

If your child is enrolled in the School-Based Health Center, they will receive the same care that they would get at the doctor's office. The SBHC can managed your child's illness at school and decrease the times they miss school. For a complete list of services at the health centers, please contact the SBHC at your child's school or read the consent form that lists all the health services your child can receive.

6) What is the cost?

At the SBHC, your child can receive services that are provided at **NO DIRECT COST** to you, regardless of insurance status. The SBHC is allowed to bill insurances for services, however, there are **NO COPAY's** for you and you **WILL NOT** receive a bill for services at the SBHC.

7) Does my child need to have health insurance to be seen at the SBHC?

No, the SBHC will treat your child regardless of insurance status. Every child in New York State is eligible for health insurance, even undocumented immigrants. If your child is not insured, the SBHC can connect you to an Insurance Enroller. Insurance is also important in case your child is referred to specialty care. If you have active insurance, it is important to provide this information to the SBHC staff.

8) What if my child already has a doctor?

If your child already has a primary doctor, then the SBHC provider will complement the care that he or she provides. If necessary, the SBHC medical provider will communicate with your child's primary doctor to make sure that your child receives the best care possible, both in and out of school. If your child does not have a doctor, the medical provider at the SBHC can be the person who provides the care a doctor would provide to your child.

9) Will going to the SBHC count against my child's assigned number of doctor visits?

No. Medicaid managed care plans allow children to be seen at School-Based Health Centers without affecting the care they receive from their primary doctor. If you have private insurance, please call and check with your insurance carrier.

10) If my child is an undocumented immigrant, can he or she be seen at the SBHC?

Yes. Immigration status does not stop your child from being seen at the SBHC. The SBHC staff does not ask about immigration status.

11) If my child does not have a Social Security Number, can he or she be seen at the SBHC?

Yes, your child can be seen without a social security number. The SBHC staff might ask for a social security number to check whether he or she has Medicaid or other insurance. However, this is not necessary to receive services at the SBHC.

12) Can my children from other schools receive care from this SBHC?

In most cases the answer is no. School- Based Health Centers provide care to students registered at the school/campus where they are located. However, the sponsoring agency can frequently direct other family members to their central hospital location or to other clinics in the area for care.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Staff at the School-Based Health Center:

Sunset Park High School (718)210-5260