



Portland School-Based Health Centers Frequently Asked Questions

Q: What schools have health centers?

A: King Middle School, Deering High School, Portland High School, Casco Bay High School and PATHS.

Q: How do I enroll my child?

A: Fill out and sign the enrollment form. The completed form can be returned the following ways: to the health center in the school, to the school nurse or to a homeroom teacher.

Q: Can my child be seen if the enrollment form was not returned with a parent signature?

A: Minor students (under 18 years of age) of the School Based Health Centers must have a signed enrollment form prior to being seen by a provider. The enrollment form acts as a permission slip to provide medical services to a minor. If the form is not returned then we will need to call the child's parent to obtain verbal consent prior to any care or treatment*.

*There are exceptions in which Students under 18 can be seen without parental consent. The following situations are the exceptions:

- Contraceptive services
- Testing and treatment for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases
- Alcohol and drug abuse
- Prenatal care and delivery services
- Outpatient mental health care

These are considered confidential visits unless the student chooses to include their parent in their care and gives permission to do so.

*A minor may give consent to all medical, mental, dental and other health counseling services if the minor is:

1. Living separately; independent of parental support
2. Married
3. A member of the Armed Forces
4. Emancipated

If the student is over 18 years old they can fill out and sign their enrollment form to receive services at the School Based Health Centers.

Q: Do I need to enroll my child if they are already an established patient at Greater Portland Health?

A: Yes, the enrollment form gives us permission to see your child without a parent being present.

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Q: Can students be seen at the School Based Health Center if they do not have insurance?

A: Yes as long as they fill out the enrollment form.

Q: Will I get a bill if my child has no insurance?

A: If your child has no insurance, a Greater Portland Health financial counselor will contact you to set up a time to review our sliding scale options prior to you receiving a bill.

Q: Why do you ask for household income information on the enrollment form? Can I refuse to answer this question?

A: Greater Portland Health is required to report on the income levels of our patient population for funding that our health center receives. This information is not shared, and in no way affects the care that patients receive. Yes, you can refuse to provide income information.

Q: What is the difference between the school nurse and the health center?

A: The school nurse assesses medical issues to determine if the student needs to be seen by a primary medical provider. School nurses are able to: screen for barriers to learning, review vaccination status, triage or treat accidents and illnesses, administer medications and support educational success through IEPs, and IHPs.

School-based health centers provide an entry point and source of primary care for children and are staffed with medical providers (i.e. doctors, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants). Enrolled students can establish Greater Portland Health as their primary medical home, thus giving them coordinated and accessible care year-round. If a primary care provider has been established elsewhere, providers in the School Based Health Center will coordinate care with the student's primary care provider. The location of the center directly in the schools allows for convenient, accessible and easy scheduling.

Q: What services are provided within the School Based Health Centers?

A: The services offered include: sports physicals, diagnosis and treatment of minor illness, management of chronic conditions, immunizations, mental health counseling and reproductive health care.

Q: Should the patients be going to the school nurse first or going directly to the health center?

A: Students may choose where they want to go first. A student is always welcome to walk in at the School-Based Health Center during open hours. Appointments can be made through the school nurse or by the student. Appointments may also be made in advance.

Q: Can my child be seen at the School Based Health Center even if they do not attend that school?

A: The child must be enrolled in the school as a student to utilize the medical center in that school. Any child is welcome to be a patient at the other Greater Portland Health locations (call 874-2141 x 8402 for more information).

Q: Do I need to re-enroll my child every year?

A: Yes. We need an updated health history and signature for the privacy policy.

Q: What if my child needs medical care outside of school hours?

A: If your child's primary care provider is Greater Portland Health, please call 874-2141. Otherwise we recommend that you contact your child's primary care provider.

Questions? Contact Vaneesa Woodward, Program Manager of School Based Health at (207) 874-2141 X8402 or email at vwoodward@greaterportlandhealth.org