

Carencro School-Based Health Center

Frequently Asked Questions

1. What exactly is a school-based health center?

A school-based health center (SBHC) is a doctor's office located on school grounds that provides comprehensive preventative and primary health care services to students on a school campus. It is staffed by a nurse practitioner, registered nurse, and licensed clinical social worker.

2. What kind of care do students receive?

The same kind of care that s/he would receive at the doctor's office, including:

- Medical: primary care for injuries and illnesses, well-child examinations, sports physicals, immunizations and laboratory tests, over-the-counter medications and prescriptions, and referrals to other providers.
- Behavioral: awareness and outreach, suicide prevention, screening for depression, individual, group and family therapy, and crisis intervention
- Prevention: health promotion and risk reduction education/programs, STD awareness and education, nutrition, sports and physical activity counseling.

3. How is a student enrolled in the SBHC?

Parents or legal guardians should complete and return a parental consent form.

4. Can my child use the services if s/he is not enrolled in the school?

Services are only provided to students whose parents have enrolled them in the center. Also, your child can only use services that you have signed him/her up for.

5. What is the cost?

There is no cost to parents for the services provided at the SBHC. SBHCs are allowed to bill insurance and Medicaid for many of the services they provide. SBHCs rely on insurance and Medicaid billing for a portion of the annual funding that allows them to provide care to the students. If the student has Medicaid or private insurance, it is important to provide this information to the SBHC.

6. Can my child use the SBHC as a primary health care provider?

The health center does not replace the primary care provider. Health centers coordinate services with students' primary care providers.

7. Will going to the SBHC count against my assigned number of doctor visits?

No. Medicaid allows children who have Primary Care Providers outside the school to be seen at the SBHC without it having an impact on the care they receive from the PCP.

8. Once my child is registered at the center, will s/he have to register each year?

Consent forms are valid for two years, after which a new consent form will need to be filled out. However, the center may ask students to update information such as telephone numbers or insurance information yearly.

9. Do the school-based health centers provide contraceptives?

No. The school-based health centers are obligated by LA state law to adhere to the promotion of abstinence for all students.

10. How will I know if my child was seen at the health center?

Students are given a parent letter to bring home after a visit at the health center that briefly discusses what they were seen for, what medication, if any they were given, and any instructions to be followed at home.

11. Will my child be given any medication in the health center?

The health center has available some over-the-counter medications as well as some samples of prescription medications that may be administered to your child if it is deemed medically necessary to do so. If prescription medication is needed, your child will be sent home with the necessary prescription.

12. Are my child's records confidential?

School-based health information is protected by HIPPA. Therefore, all information is confidential and subject to student release of information before it is shared.