

## **Frequently asked questions about School Based Health Centers**

### **1. What is a School Based Health Center?**

Our School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are a doctor's office inside of your child's school. These services are provided through Valley Health Care, Inc. (VHC) and Arbor Community Health Center (ACHC). Each SBHC will be staffed with a primary care provider and a nurse during regular hours each week throughout the school year. The intention of SBHCs is not to take children away from their medical home but to supplement the care they are already receiving, and to reach out to children who may not have access to care. We also hope to decrease absenteeism and time away from school by providing students and staff the convenience of a clinic within their school.

### **2. Where will the School Based Health Centers be located?**

For the current school year, we will have SBHCs located in Tygarts Valley Middle/High School, George Ward Elementary School, Elkins High School, Elkins Middle School, and Third Ward Elementary.

### **3. Who can be seen at the School Based Health Centers?**

Any student with a signed consent form that attends one of the five schools listed above may be seen in the SBHC of the school that he/she attends. Our providers will also provide primary health care services to the staff of the five Randolph county schools. This includes the teachers, counselors, bus drivers, janitorial, and kitchen staff of those schools.

### **4. What services are provided at the School Based Health Centers?**

Our primary care providers offer a variety of services through the school based health clinics. These services include yearly well child exams, vaccinations, sports physicals, acute care visits (i.e. sick visits, lacerations, injuries, etc.) and chronic care visits (i.e. asthma, ADHD, allergy shots, etc.) The goal of having an SBHC in your child's school is to encourage early intervention and prevention through consistency and education.

### **5. Is signing up for the School Based Health Center mandatory?**

The School Based Health Centers were formed in collaboration between Randolph County Board of Education and Valley Health Care to provide care and convenience for your children and the staff of Randolph County Schools. The SBHCs goal is to shorten time away from instructional time at school and decrease absences for students and staff.

Filling out the consent form and signing up your children for school based health is an optional service provided by Valley Health Care for the students and staff of the five Randolph County schools listed.

### **6. Will my child be seen at the School Based Health Center without my knowledge or without me?**

Prior to each visit with your child (whether it was a previously scheduled or sick visit) the provider at the SBHC will contact you by telephone before that day's visit to verify that you would like your child to be seen by that provider. If the provider is unable to reach you by telephone they will then defer to the child's written consent form for permission to see your child. If a written consent form is not available and the provider is unable to speak to you to obtain verbal consent (described below) then the provider will be unable to see your child for that day's visit.

**7. Can my child be seen at a School Based Health Center without a signed consent form?**

Anytime a student comes to be seen at one of our SBHCs for either an acute or chronic visit, we verify that the child has a signed consent form. If they do not, have a signed consent, we attempt to contact the child's parent/guardian for a one time verbal consent. This notifies you that your child is in the SBHC and you then have the option to allow your child to be seen with your verbal permission or for them not to be seen at that time. A verbal permission is only good for that day's visit and may only be obtained once per school year. If your child comes into the SBHC for subsequent visits without a consent form signed by you and if they have already used the verbal consent for the school year, they will be unable to be seen that day without a parent/guardian present.

**8. If I haven't signed my child up yet for the School Based Health Center is it too late?**

We accept consent forms anytime throughout the school year. These are available online at Randolph County Board of Education website (<http://boe.rand.k12.wv.us/>) and Valley Health Care's website ([www.vhcwv.org](http://www.vhcwv.org)). The consent forms are also available on the website of the school that your child attends.

**9. Will these services be billed to my insurance?**

Yes, all services provided within the SBHCs will be billed. We accept most major insurances, including PEIA, CHIPs, Medicaid, and Blue-Cross Blue Shield. If your child does not have insurance, he or she can still be seen at the School-Based Health Center, and you will be billed directly for the cost of the services.

If your child is uninsured, please contact VHC at (304) 335-2050 or at [valleyhealthcarewv@gmail.com](mailto:valleyhealthcarewv@gmail.com) for assistance in enrolling in an insurance plan or the VHC Care Program. The VHC Care Program is a sliding fee program that reduces the cost of care to uninsured patients at a rate of 20% to 50% of the total cost.

**10. Who will be seeing our children at the School Based Health Centers?**

The school based clinics are funded and staffed by Valley Health Care, Inc. in conjunction with Arbor Community Health Center. Each SBHC is staffed by a primary care provider and a nurse. Those providers and their schedules at the school based health clinics are as follows:

Rachel Anger, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, will be at Third Ward Elementary on Tuesdays and Wednesdays 11:00-12:30.

Christie Shoemaker, Physician Assistant, will be at Third Ward Elementary on Mondays and Thursdays 11:00-12:30. Christie will also be at Elkins Middle School on Fridays at 7:30-10:30

Ashley Mauzy, Physician Assistant, will be at Tygarts Valley Middle/High School on Mondays 7:30-10:00, Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:30-2:30; George Ward Elementary on Mondays from 10:30-2:30, Wednesdays and Fridays from 7:30-10:00. Ashley will also be at Elkins High School on Tuesdays from 7:30-10:30 and Thursdays from 11:30-2:30; Elkins Middle School on Tuesdays from 11:30-2:30 and Thursdays 7:30-10:30.