

Howard County Health Department School-Based Wellness Center

“Bringing your child quality health care in school”

*A partnership between the Howard County Health
Department and the Howard County Public School System*

Services Include treatment for illnesses such as:

- Sore throat
- Ear infections
- Asthma
- Rashes
- Conjunctivitis
- Colds and upper respiratory symptoms

Our staff will work with you and your child’s healthcare provider to coordinate care so your child receives the care he or she needs while in school.

Prescriptions can be sent directly to your pharmacy of choice.

Your child’s primary provider will be notified of the visit, in order to provide follow up care as needed.

You will be able to attend the appointment in person or by remote access

Your child can be seen right away so they feel better sooner, lose less class time and you do not miss work!

There may be a time when your child’s illness cannot be properly treated by telemedicine, if that occurs you will be asked to pick up your child according to routine health office procedures.

No child is ever refused services for inability to pay or an outstanding bill.

The Wellness Center is open during regular school hours.

What is a school-based health or wellness center?

A School-based Wellness Center is similar to a doctor's office, but located inside a school or on a school campus. This site is able to provide acute health care services to children through the use of telemedicine technology during the school day. **All services require written consent from parents and/or guardians.**

Health Services provided include treatment for illnesses such as:

- Sore throat
- ear infections
- Asthma
- conjunctivitis
- colds and upper respiratory symptoms
- rashes
- conjunctivitis

What is telemedicine?

Telemedicine provides a two-way connection between student and nurse at school and a doctor at another location. The connection is made using a video link. Special equipment is used to allow the doctor to examine the student's ears, throat, skin, eyes and listen to lungs.

Who provides the health services?

The center is staffed by a full-time nurse who establishes if the student needs to be seen by a clinician. An experienced pediatrician through the use of telemedicine technology will provide the medical services.

If the child already has a health provider, why would they need to enroll in the school-based wellness center?

The Wellness Center provides services for children who are unable to see their primary provider. Children who are ill or injured in school can receive immediate medical care and reduce the time they miss from the classroom. Parents do not have to miss time from work to take their children to the doctor's office. Their primary provider will be made aware of the visit.

What if the child does not have health insurance?

Families will be assisted in applying for Maryland's Children's Health Program (MCHP) that provides health care coverage to low-income children up to age 19 and pregnant women of any age). Those who are not eligible for MCHP and are still without health insurance will be charged based on a sliding scale. ***No child will ever be refused services due to his or her family's inability to pay or for having an outstanding bill.***

What if the equipment isn't working or the child is uncooperative during the exam?

In case of connection or equipment problems or if the child is unable to be examined safely, the parent may be asked to come to the school and pick them up. The parent can then decide to take them home or have them seen by their own primary care physician or urgent care facility.

What are the center's hours of operation?

The center is open during regular school hours.