



## **FAQs about Neighborcare Health at Vashon Island High School School-based Health Center**

### **Background**

Neighborcare Health will open a new school-based health center at Vashon Island High School, thanks to a grant through the King County Best Starts for Kids. This will be our first school-based health center outside of the Seattle Public Schools, where we currently have 12 school-based health centers in elementary, middle, and high schools. We are excited to invest further in Vashon and are grateful for the partnership with the schools and the school district.

***If a student, parent, community member, community provider has additional questions about the school-based health center, they can email these Neighborcare Health staff members:***

Alyssa Pyke, school-based health program manager: [AlyssaP@neighborcare.org](mailto:AlyssaP@neighborcare.org)

Gabrielle Douthitt, school-based health program medical director: [GabrielleD@neighborcare.org](mailto:GabrielleD@neighborcare.org)

***For media inquiries***, contact Mary Schilder, director of marketing communications:  
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### **When will it open for services?**

School year 2017-2018

### **Will you be hiring new staff?**

Yes. Open positions will be posted in June. We will be looking for a medical provider, mental health therapists, a health educator, and health center coordinator.

### **What is the cost to students?**

There is no cost to students.

### **Where will the school-based health center be located?**

It will be located at Vashon Island High School. We are working closely with the school to identify an appropriate temporary space for the school-based health center services during the construction period.

### **What services will be offered? And will these be offered right off the bat?**

We will offer comprehensive health care services, including medical, mental health, dental and health education. We plan on offering most services in the fall of the 2017-2018 school year and we plan on providing our full scope of services once the construction of the new school-based health center is complete later in the school year.

***Medical*** — Medical services will be offered during the school year by a nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. Students will be able to get the same comprehensive medical services they would receive at a traditional primary medical care clinic at the school-based health center. For example, well-child checks,

sports physicals, vaccinations, ADHD evaluation and treatment, health education, chronic condition management, such as asthma, and age-appropriate reproductive health care. Same-day illness or injury services, such as sore throat, cough or an ankle sprain will also be available.

The school-based health center will provide a full-range of comprehensive health care, in alignment with national guidelines, as well as Washington State law. This includes reproductive health services, including birth control counseling and method options as well as screenings and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. We do not provide abortion services at any Neighborcare Health clinic, and our school-based health center will not provide pregnancy care. We can provide referrals for providers in the community that provide these services if needed. We do provide Plan B as part of our pregnancy prevention services.

***Mental Health*** — Mental health counseling services will be offered during the school year by a licensed mental health therapist. Therapists can provide one-on-one or group counseling for a wide range of issues such as developing coping skills, managing anxiety, depression, grief support, family support, and more.

***Dental*** — Dental services will be offered during the school year by the Neighborcare Health portable dental team which includes a dentist and two dental assistants. We will provide a wide range of dental services, including exams/check-ups, cleanings, X-rays, fillings, extractions, and fluoride treatments. More complicated extractions or oral surgery needs will be referred to our Neighborcare Health at High Point dental clinic in West Seattle.

***Health Education*** – Health education includes a variety of topics about living a healthy lifestyle and understanding personal health to help students succeed in school and life.

#### **Who can use the school-based health center?**

Any student enrolled in the Vashon Island School District can use the school-based health center. Students must enroll in the clinic and have a signed consent form to receive services. Adult family members and children not of school age can use the community clinic, Neighborcare Health at Vashon.

#### **What do the grant dollars cover?**

We will receive an initial grant from Best Starts for Kids starting in school year 2017-2018 to cover school-based health center operations. We were also awarded a limited amount in one-time funding to support the construction of the new school-based health center.

#### **Is there any cost to the schools/school district?**

There is no cost to the schools for construction of the space and school-based health center operations, with the exception of utilities used by the clinic during the school year.

#### **What does this mean for the school nurse? How are the roles different?**

The school nurse, who is an employee of the school district, will be co-located with school-based health center as part of the care team. The school nurse is responsible for the overall health of the students at school. Our school-based health center team will partner very closely with the school nurse. The school nurse will be the first point of contact when students come to the school-based health center for a health concern or question. The school nurse and the school-based health center staff can share information with one another in order to provide coordinated care to students.

**Will you offer services to minors without their parents knowing?**

We try to involve parents as much as possible. We coach students about how to talk to their parents and encourage them to do so. When engaging parents is not an option for the youth, we do follow Washington State Minor Consent laws, which outline what services minors can get confidentially without parent/guardian consent, and at what age. [Source for minor consent law](#)

**If someone is a patient at the main clinic, do they have to re-register at the school-based health center?**

The only requirement for existing Neighborcare Health patients is a signed school-based health consent form, which the parent and/or student signs to give the school-based health center team consent for receiving services at the school, often without an accompanying parent or guardian during the time of service (e.g. during school). If a student is served at both the school-based health center and the community clinic (Neighborcare Health at Vashon), their health records will be accessible by both care teams.

**How will the school clinic interface/coordinate with the community medical clinic on the island, Neighborcare Health at Vashon?**

The most common interaction is simply the sharing of patients. The community clinic can refer students to the school-based health center so that students are not missing too much class time in order to receive their health care. If there is something that the care team can't do at the school-based health center, we can refer students to the community clinic (such as X-rays). If adult or non-school-aged family members want to receive health care with Neighborcare Health and they are identified at school first, our care team will refer them to the community clinic.

**How will the school-based health center coordinate with other service providers on the island?**

We will coordinate with other service providers on and off the island in order to provide the highest quality coordinated care possible. We work with primary care providers, specialty care providers, mental health providers, dentists, etc. Our goal is to treat the whole child and provide the best care for each student. We believe that healthy students learn better and we want to ensure that students miss as little school as possible for their health care appointments.