Two New School-Based Health Centers to Open This Fall

For more than 50 years, Neighborcare Health has been providing primary medical, dental and behavioral health care services to low-income and uninsured families, seniors and people experiencing homelessness in the Seattle area. For more than 25 years, we have also provided school-based health services to students in elementary, middle and high schools in Seattle and Vashon.

Neighborcare Health’s school-based health centers (SBHC) are full service health clinics that provide medical, mental health and dental services for students. Funding for the health centers is partially supported by the Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy of the City of Seattle and the Best Starts for Kids investment of King County. Neighborcare Health staff work in partnership with the school nurse at the health center and help students achieve better health and academic outcomes by providing safe, age-appropriate, culturally-competent care where they already spend much of their time — at school.

This fall, Neighborcare Health is proud to add two new sites to our family of 13 SBHCs. The new sites are Robert Eagle Staff Middle School, which is less than one mile from the Meridian clinic, and Lincoln High School, which is less than half a mile from the 45th Street clinic. Much of the value of our SBHCs comes from their ability to partner with our nearby primary care sites. By building trusting relationships with students and enhancing the physical and mental well-being of youth where they spend most of their time, SBHCs encourage students’ to engage with their health and build a health care home. We remain committed to keeping youth healthy and engaged in school, and are excited to grow our school-based network and family.

“School-based health centers are a proven strategy to improve both student health and academic achievement — by having access to care right on campus,” said Patty Hayes, Director of Public Health-Seattle and King County. “Removing even one health risk for a student can boost their achievement. Our centers are key to our efforts to close the opportunity gap for our youth who may not have easy access to care.”

“Removing even one health risk for a student can boost their achievement.”
— Patty Hayes, Director of Public Health-Seattle and King County

“Neighborcare Health has a long, rich history in school-based health, and we are honored to be able to expand our school-based network to include the students, families and staff at Lincoln High School and Robert Eagle Staff Middle School,” said School-Based Health Program Manager Alison Delateur. “Our ultimate goal at Neighborcare Health is for all members of our community to have equal access to quality health care. Funding school-based health centers is a long-term investment in the health of the community because it provides every child with a health care home in the place where they spend most of their time.”
Dental Hygienists Get Hands on Experience at Neighborcare Health at Pacific Tower

Occupying the entire fourth floor of the Pacific Tower, the Dental Education Clinic, is an innovative collaboration of Neighborcare Health, Seattle Central College Hygiene Program and the Seattle Vocational Institute Dental Assisting Program. This patient-centered dental clinic has a dual purpose: to increase affordable dental care access for low-income people, and to provide an experiential education for dental assistant and dental hygiene students. The unique setting provides workforce development for students in a full-service dental clinic, which does not exist in a purely academic setting. Traditionally, dental assisting and hygiene academic programs only provide very brief clinical exposure to their students.

Limiting clinical experience does not provide the training and experience necessary for these students to develop competency in the skills and workplace fundamentals needed to be highly competitive upon graduation. The Dental Education Clinic Student Employment Preparation project is designed to address that need, so that students are prepared and ready for the workforce immediately following completion of their degree.

Since the clinic opened in 2016, three cohorts have graduated from this program, with many students moving right into permanent positions with Neighborcare Health. “It’s been an amazing experience working with the students, watching them grow in their fields and seeing them return to Neighborcare as clinicians,” said Clinic Administrator Candice Parks.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new class of bright students this fall.

Neighborhood Health Presents

The Impact of School-Based Health Centers

Neighborhood Health Presents is a series of community conversations that bring together industry experts, policy makers, partners, and community members to discuss the impact health care has on the social issues facing our community. Each year our organization chooses a topic that focuses on a different program at Neighborcare Health such as dental hygiene, behavioral health, or homelessness.

This year’s topic is school-based health and how providing care inside schools can better serve students and increase graduation rates. The Neighborcare Health team will highlight our integrated mental health services, as well as provide an overview of our school-based health clinics. We will have outside experts on the panel to speak to funding and to more broadly address why school-based health centers are so important to our community.

Who should attend? This forum will cover information, strategy data, and patient stories from those who are improving access to care in our school-based health centers. Policy makers, partners, and community members are encouraged to attend to learn how we can work together to provide better care in our schools to make our community healthier and stronger.
OUR LOCATIONS
45th Street
Youth Clinic at 45th Street
Bailey Gatzert Elementary
Ballard
Central District
Chief Seattle International High School
Columbia City
Dearborn Park International School
Denny International Middle School
Georgetown
High Point
Highland Park Elementary
Lake City
Lincoln High School
Madison Middle School
Magnuson
Mercer Middle School
Meridian
Youth Clinic at New Horizons
Pacific Tower
Pike Place Market
Dental at Providence St. Peter Hospital
Rainier Beach
Robert Eagle Staff Middle School
Roosevelt High School
Roxhill Elementary
St. Vincent de Paul – Aurora
Van Asselt Elementary
Vashon
Vashon Island High School
West Seattle Elementary
West Seattle High School

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