



April 2, 2020

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URGENT INFORMATION FOR ALL COLORADANS: SCHOOL-BASED HEALTH CENTERS ARE CONTINUING THEIR COMMITMENT TO CHILDREN'S HEALTH.

Denver, Colorado – April 2, 2020 – As Colorado's schools closed in response to COVID-19, Colorado's 63 School-Based Health Centers (SBHCs) quickly adapted. SBHCs remain committed to serving Colorado's children's health care needs, regardless of insurance or ability to pay.

While Colorado's SBHCs are committed to respecting guidelines set forth by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as well as mandates by Governor Polis, they are critical providers of health care and remain dedicated to serving both new and existing patients. In the interest of public health, a majority of the SBHCs that are located inside of their host school closed their clinics along with the statewide school closure order. Many SBHCs have introduced telehealth to provide their patients needed medical and behavioral health services at a safe distance. Some SBHCs have external access separate from the school and remain open, as they undertake strict cleaning and disinfecting protocols to continue safely serving their communities. Some SBHCs have changed their model of care in order to prioritize the community by redirecting providers and patients to their community clinics.

As SBHCs adapt to meet specific community needs during the COVID-19 response, SBHCs request that all patients call ahead to learn how to access care. Services offered by the SBHC may include: mental health and substance use counseling, consultations on sick visits, oral health screenings and triage for further dental care, immunizations and labs, screenings for comprehensive wellness and mental health, asthma checks, consultations for medicine refills, and more. Where allowed, the SBHC will split the time of the day between the sick visits from their healthy patients by providing well-visits that include important immunizations.

"It is remarkable how school-based health centers are responding in these challenging times. SBHCs are a critical component of community health by ensuring that children and youth are able to receive the services they need most," stated Aubrey Hill, Executive Director of Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care (CASBHC). "Children and youth are experiencing the uncertainty and trauma that

comes with the world of change in this pandemic. It is critical that school-based health centers continue to provide their patients the support they need.”

CASBHC urges you to share this message in any way possible to ensure that families who may need behavioral health or medical care for their children know that some SBHCs remain open and can provide services, regardless of insurance or ability to pay. SBHCs encourage patients to call ahead of time to understand the SBHC’s approach to providing care as it varies across the state. To find the SBHC in your community and their contact information, visit CASBHC’s website: <https://www.casbhc.org/directory>. Here individuals can find resources in their communities and learn how they can set up appointments as well as learn more about the innovative adjustments the SBHCs have made to preserve access to care for Colorado children.

ABOUT CASBHC Colorado Association for School-Based Health Care (CASBHC) envisions that health and academic outcomes for kids are no longer predicted by circumstance. Our 63 school-based health centers offer integrated health care, mental and behavioral health, and oral health care across the state in partnership with the schools to ensure that children are healthy and ready to learn.

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