

**Thundermist Health Center of West Warwick
School Based Health Hut
Parent / Guardian Notification**

Welcome to the ***Health Hut!***

CONSENT: **To enroll your child, a parent or legal guardian must sign the attached Registration Form, which includes your consent for treating your child at the Health Hut. Be sure to check off which services you are allowing your child to receive from the Health Hut. They are listed on the Registration Form.**

COST: **All *Health Hut* services are provided at no cost to you!** If you have insurance, we will bill your insurance, but all your co-payments are waived. Care is free for any uninsured patients, but we can also help you apply for RIte Care, a state medical assistance program that may be able to insure you and your family.

SERVICES: In order to fully understand the services we are providing to your child, please read the following information located in the Questions and Answers section below. It explains what services your child can receive confidentially at the *Health Hut* if you choose to allow them to use the *Health Hut*. You should not enroll your child at the *Health Hut* if you are not comfortable with these confidentiality arrangements.

QUESTIONS: You can always ask us questions before you enroll your child. Please contact us at 401-615-2900 or at HealthHutWW@thundermisthealth.org if you have any questions about our services or would like to schedule an informational visit.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS REGARDING *HEALTH HUT* SERVICES:

1. What services can my child receive at the *Health Hut*?

Health Care, like you would receive from your family pediatrician or dentist, is available to your child at the *Health Hut* at no cost to you.

This includes:

-Physical exams

-Immunizations

-Sick visits

-Care for chronic illnesses such as Asthma and Diabetes

-Gynecology: including sexually transmitted disease testing/treatment, family planning counseling. Abortions or abortion counseling is NOT provided at the Health Hut.

-Case management

-Dental services: including examinations, x rays, cleanings, sealants, and fluoride treatments

-Follow up services, such as fillings, extractions, etc., can be provided by Thundermist in the Molar Express.

(You will be contacted for consent prior to any restorative dental service.)

-Nutritional counseling, through licensed Thundermist nutritionists

-Behavioral Health Counseling: family and individual therapy may be available at the *Health Hut* in partnership with licensed providers.

NOTE: Any treatment from non-Thundermist providers will require **separate consent** from parents/guardians. Services may be **charged separately**.

2. How is the care my son or daughter receives at school coordinated with me and with our private family doctor and school staff?

Children who have private doctors in the community can use our services. Often it is easier to get an appointment at the *Health Hut*, the child misses less school, and parents/guardians do not have to miss work. Because the relationship between the primary care provider and the patient is very important, we send the primary care provider notes on the visit so they may be actively involved and understand what is happening with the child's health (unless confidential). Thundermist will send your regular dentist information if you ask us to, or if we believe it is important to ensure quality care.

When your child is seen by the *Health Hut* we will either call you or send a note home with your child, regarding his/her visit, except when services are provided confidentially (see below). You can always call us to ask questions, and if there is an after-hours emergency, you can reach our on-call system by calling 615-2800 if you have a medical or dental problem.

3. Once I enroll my son or daughter, what services will s/he be able to access without my knowledge and why are these services kept confidential?

We at the *Health Hut* want parents/guardians to be actively involved in their children's health care. We also always encourage children to speak with their parents/guardians about all their health concerns. You are welcome to visit the *Health Hut* with your child for his/her appointments. We provide a note home regarding your child's care at the *Health Hut* and try, whenever possible, to contact you by phone to discuss your child's medical care.

Birth control is not prescribed or dispensed at the West Warwick *Health Hut*.

MOST INFORMATION IN YOUR CHILD'S HEALTH HUT MEDICAL RECORD IS AVAILABLE TO YOU, EXCEPT AS NOTED IN OUR CONFIDENTIALITY POLICY, STATED BELOW. ANY RELEASE OF MEDICAL INFORMATION REGARDING YOUR CHILD IS SUBJECT TO FEDERAL LAWS AS STATED IN OUR ATTACHED NOTICE OF PRIVACY POLICIES, AND THE ATTACHED CONSENT FORM.

Thundermist's Policy Concerning Confidential Health Services to Health Hut patients:

We know that teenagers often avoid getting needed care for certain problems unless they know that they can be treated confidentially. We know that most parents/guardians would prefer that their child have a place to turn when they need care and are not willing to talk directly to their parent(s)/guardian(s). Therefore, the Health Hut provides confidential services under the conditions listed below:

Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing and Treatment

Family Planning Counseling, Pregnancy Testing, and Follow up Counseling/Referral

Substance Abuse Counseling and Referral

We will only share any information regarding these conditions with parents/guardians if the student patient agrees or when, in our judgment, we must disclose information to preserve the life, health, and /or well being of the patient, or as we are required to report by State or Federal law.

Behavioral Health Services: Therapy sessions must be maintained as confidential in order for the therapy to be useful. The circumstances around how information will be shared in counseling sessions will be agreed upon between the therapist, the patient and his/her family at the beginning of treatment.

In Summary.....

Parents/Guardians must place a certain level of trust in Thundermist's Health Hut staff as the child's health care provider. Those parents/guardians unable to do that should not enroll their child for Health Hut services. Remember that a student cannot receive services at the Health Hut if a parent/guardian does not sign the consent form and enroll the student. We encourage parents/guardians and their children to discuss things before enrolling for the Health Hut.