West Warwick
Health Hut Handbook

*Keeping Kids Healthy at*

*School and at Home*

A partnership of Thundermist Health Center of West Warwick and the West Warwick School Department. Serving Deering Middle School and West Warwick High School.

**Telephone:** 401-615-2900  
**Fax:** 401-615-2901  
**Hours:**  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri.: 7:30 am - 2 pm  
Wed.: 7:30 - 11:30 am
HEALTH HUT SERVICES

At the Health Hut Students May Receive:

- Physical examinations, including school and sports physicals
- Immunizations
- Sick visits
- Nutritional assessments and counseling
- Treatment of chronic illnesses (such as diabetes, asthma)
- Treatment of minor injuries
- Dental services - (including examinations, x-rays, cleanings, sealants and fluoride treatments). Restorative services provided by Thundermist on the Molar Express with additional consent
- Gynecological (GYN) services, pregnancy testing, and testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- Family planning counseling
- HIV testing
- Behavioral health services

Please note: Students do not need to be Thundermist patients to participate. Students may have their own primary care provider.

After Hours Emergencies:
Assistance is available 24 hours per day, 365 days per year. Call (401) 615-2800 with urgent medical or dental problems.

Closings:
The Health Hut is closed when school is closed due to weather.
THUNDERMIST’S POLICY CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES TO HEALTH HUT PATIENTS

Students, while encouraged to communicate with their parents/guardians, can receive the following confidential services:

- Sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment
- Family planning counseling, pregnancy testing, and follow-up counseling/referral
- Substance abuse counseling and referral

We only share information regarding these conditions with parent(s)/guardian(s) if the student patient agrees or when, in our judgment, we must disclose information to protect the life, health, and/or well-being of the patient, or as required by state and federal law.

Behavioral health services: Counseling sessions must be confidential in order for the counseling to be useful. The circumstances around how information will be shared in counseling sessions will be agreed upon between the behavioral health clinician, the patient, and their family at the beginning of treatment.

In Summary
Parent(s)/guardian(s) must place a certain level of trust in Health Hut staff as the child’s health care provider. Parent(s)/guardian(s) unable to do that should not enroll their child for Health Hut services. 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 parent(s)/guardian(s) and their child(ren) to discuss these things before enrolling for the Health Hut.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

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. Check off which service(s) 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 co-payments are waived. Care is free for uninsured patients, but we can also help you and your family get insurance.

**SERVICES:**
Please read the information located in the Frequently Asked Questions section below to understand the services provided to your child. It explains what services your child can receive confidentially at the Health Hut if you allow them to use the Health Hut. Do not enroll your child at the Health Hut if you do not agree with these confidentiality arrangements.

**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:**
You can always ask us questions before you enroll your child. Please contact us at (401) 615-2900 or via email at HealthHutWW@ThundermistHealth.org if you have questions about our services or would like to schedule a visit.

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

   Health care, like you would receive from your health care provider 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, case management, dental services, nutritional counseling, gynecology, and behavioral health counseling (family and individual therapy may be available at the Health Hut in partnership with licensed providers). Gynecology services include sexually transmitted infection testing/treatment and family planning counseling. ** Abortions or abortion counseling are NOT provided at the Health Hut.**

   **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 child receives at school coordinated with me and with our family provider and school staff?

*Children who have family providers 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 parent(s)/guardian(s) 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).

We will call you or send a note home with your child regarding their Health Hut visit when services are provided confidentially (see question 3 below). You can call us to ask questions, (401) 615-2900, and if there is an after-hours emergency you can call (401) 615-2800.

3. Once I enroll my child, what services will they be able to access without my knowledge, and why are these services kept confidential?

We at the Health Hut want parent(s)/guardian(s) to be actively involved in their children’s health care. We always encourage children to speak with their parent(s)/guardian(s) about health concerns. You are welcome to visit the Health Hut with your child for their appointment(s). We provide a note home regarding your child’s care at the Health Hut and try to contact you by phone to discuss your child’s medical care.

*Most information in your child’s Health Hut medical record is available to you, except as noted in our confidentiality policy (see page 3). Any release of medical information regarding your child is subject to federal laws as stated in our notice of privacy policies, and the consent form.*
THUNDERMIST PATIENT RIGHTS

You have the right to:

• The patient shall be afforded considerate and respectful care. Treatment planning shall be performed in a collaborative manner.

• Upon request, the patient shall be furnished with the name of the provider responsible for coordinating their care.

• Upon request, the patient shall be furnished with the name of the provider or other person responsible for conducting any specific test or other procedure performed by Thundermist in connection with the patient’s treatment.

• The patient shall have the right to refuse any treatment by Thundermist to the extent permitted by law.

• The patient’s right to privacy shall be respected to the extent consistent with providing adequate care to the patient and with the efficient administration of the health care facility. Nothing in this section shall be construed to preclude discreet discussion of a patient’s case or examination by appropriate personnel.

• The patient’s right to privacy and confidentiality shall extend to all records pertaining to the patient’s treatment except as otherwise provided by law.

• Thundermist shall respond in a reasonable manner to the request of a patient’s provider for services they rendered to the patient. Thundermist shall also respond in a reasonable manner to the patient’s request for other services customarily rendered by Thundermist to the extent the services do not require the approval of the patient’s provider or are not inconsistent with the patient’s treatment.

• Upon request, the patient shall be furnished with the identities of all other health care and educational institutions that Thundermist has authorized to participate in the patient’s treatment and the nature of the relationship between the institutions and Thundermist.

• If Thundermist proposes to use the patient in any human experimentation project, it shall first thoroughly inform the patient of the proposal and offer the patient the right to refuse to participate in the project.

• Upon request, the patient shall be allowed to examine and shall be given an explanation of the bill rendered by Thundermist irrespective of the source of payment of the bill.

• Upon request, the patient shall be permitted to examine any pertinent health care facility rules and regulations that specifically govern the patient’s treatment.
• The patient shall be offered treatment without discrimination as to race or color, religion, country of ancestral origin, disability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression.

• Upon written request, the patient has the right to access their protected health information maintained by Thundermist and to request an amendment to it.

• Upon request, Thundermist may deliver confidential communications to a patient about protected health information by alternate means or location.

• Upon request, the patient has the right to receive an accounting of the disclosures made by Thundermist in the six (6) years prior to the date of the patient’s request.

• Upon request the patient has the right to request restrictions on the use and disclosure of protected health information.

**THUNDERMIST PATIENT RESPONSIBILITIES**

**You have the responsibility to:**

• Treat all staff with consideration and respect.

• Ask your provider if you have questions or concerns about your condition or treatment.

• Keep appointments and be on time, or call to cancel and reschedule 24 hours before your appointment.

• Make every effort to act in accordance with treatment decisions that you and your provider have agreed to, or talk to your provider about challenges you may have in doing so.

• Respect Thundermist’s smoke-free campus policy by not smoking on any Thundermist property.

• Respect the privacy of other patients.

• Pay all fees on a timely basis or make alternative arrangements with a Thundermist financial counselor.

• Provide Thundermist staff with the most accurate and complete information possible regarding your health concerns, past illnesses, hospitalizations, medications, and unexpected changes in your health.

• Report any changes in your address, telephone number, advanced directives, and financial or insurance status.

• Obtain copies of previous records when requested.
The Quickest Way to the Best Health Care!

WALK-IN MEDICAL SERVICE

Located at
Thundermist Health Center of West Warwick
186 Providence Street, West Warwick
(401) 615-2800

QuickCare is Open
Monday – Friday 9:30 am – 9:30 pm
Saturday, Sunday and Holidays 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

You do not have to be a Thundermist patient to use QuickCare Services

Discounted fees based on family size and income are available for those who qualify. For those with insurance, co-pays are similar to a regular office visit.