



COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELLNESS PARTNERS

Care... To Live Life Fully

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Community Health & Wellness Partners Opens School-Based Health Care Center at West Liberty Salem Local Schools

BELLEFONTAINE, Ohio. (Jan. 19, 2021) — [Community Health & Wellness Partners \(CHWP\)](#), an independent, nonprofit health center that provides primary care and other wellness services to the residents of Logan and surrounding counties, has partnered with West Liberty Salem Local Schools to open an on-site, school-based health center. The health center opens January 19 and is staffed by the school's nurse, Jennifer Douthwaite, a certified nurse practitioner (CNP), and Beth Wing, a licensed practicing nurse (LPN). Both are employees of CHWP.

Students may visit the school-based health center for any and all issues normally handled by the school nurse. In addition, they can visit the center for other primary care needs, such as regular check-ups, prescriptions, and appointments to address injuries or the onset of other health issues. The school-based health center is not a replacement for anyone's primary health care provider, but instead provides an additional, optional touchpoint for students and faculty to receive health support and ensure they meet treatment schedules. Because the school-based health center's nurses are part of the CHWP team, they will follow CHWP's Team Care model, which integrates services such as management of chronic diseases, nutrition, pharmacy, and behavioral health.

"Having a health center located on-site at our school is a big step forward in keeping our students healthy. It will minimize the time out of class needed for students to manage any health issues they have," said Kraig Hissong, superintendent of West Liberty Salem Local Schools. "This will help our students improve their academic results, and by paying more attention to their health at a time and place that is convenient, we expect them to have better long-term health outcomes as well."

"School-based health centers can play an important role in helping families manage the physical and mental health needs of their children," said Tara Bair, president and CEO of Community Health and Wellness Partners. "We are proud to be partnering with West Liberty Salem Local Schools to offer this important and needed service for their students and faculty."

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The goal of a school-based health center is to minimize the time children are out of class and maximize the amount of time they spend learning. Studies have shown that students who receive school-based health care also have fewer long-term health issues and experience improved academic outcomes. Families also maintain complete control over what health services their children receive or do not receive.

Having a health care center on-site at a school offers a convenient way for parents to have their child seen by a provider. A school-based health center also provides a consistent care provider relationship, reducing the need for parents to switch health care providers to fit their schedules or changes in health insurance.

Learning is more effective if students are present in class, healthy and engaged. School-based health care connects students to health care providers in a way that minimizes overall disruption to their instructional time — including tardiness or early dismissals. Research has shown that schools that provide health care on-site report better graduation rates, improved grade promotion, lower rates of absenteeism, tardiness, withdrawals, dropouts, failing grades, and fewer disciplinary problems. Teachers can support school-based health initiatives by alerting providers of possible student health issues to help students receive care when the need is greatest.

School-based health centers provide access to health care for all children whose parents have given permission, regardless of insurance coverage or ability to pay. When parents give permission for their children to be seen at a school-based health center, they know they will not have to miss work to care for minor problems. They also know that their children will receive prompt attention from health care providers trained at working with youth. School administrators and teachers are extremely supportive of school-based health centers because health centers allow them to focus on their role of educating students who are healthy and ready to learn.

About Community Health & Wellness Partners

Community Health & Wellness Partners opened its door in March 2014 with a mission to provide quality, whole person, patient-centered medical care to the residents of Logan and surrounding counties. With locations now in Bellefontaine, Indian Lake and West Liberty, the nonprofit organization's services include primary care, integrated behavioral health care, clinical primary care, pharmacy services, nutrition services and more. Community Health & Wellness Partners offers patients a team-based approach to their care, supporting their primary care provider so that the patient can experience a more well-rounded approach to addressing their health care needs. Community Health & Wellness Partners delivers care to patients regardless of their age, gender, income level, insurance or ability to pay. This health center is a grantee of funding awards supported by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Further, this health center is a Health Center Program grantee under 42 U.S.C.254b and deemed a Public Health Service employee under 42 U.S.C. 233(g)-(n) and a Federal Tort Claims Act (FTCA) entity. For more information, visit www.chwplc.org.

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