

About School Based Health Centers

1. What is a School Based Health Center?

Our School Based Health Centers (SBHCs) are a doctor's office inside of your child's school. These services are provided through Hawai'i Island Community Health Center (HICHC), a non-profit community health center.

The goal is to provide care that is in addition to the care received at their medical home/doctor's office, not to replace that routine care. This is a chance for children who don't otherwise have access to care to receive it easily in the school setting. We also hope to reduce the time away from school and parent's work by providing students with the convenience of a clinic at school.

2. Where will the School Based Health Centers be located?

In school year 2022-2023, we opened SBHCs in Honaunau Elementary, Kealakehe Elementary, and Kealakehe Intermediate Schools. In school year 2023-2024, we will be expanding to additional schools in East Hawaii and West Hawaii.

3. Who can be seen at the School Based Health Centers?

Any student with a signed consent form may be seen in the SBHC of the school that they attend.

4. What services are provided at the School Based Health Centers?

Primary Care Services:

- Well Child Exams
- Vaccinations
- Sport Physicals
- Acute Care Visits (sick visits, injuries, etc.)
- Chronic Care Visits (asthma, ADHD, Allergy shots, etc.)

Behavioral Health Care and Dental services will also be available.

5. Who will be seeing your children at the School Based Health Centers?

The SBHCs are funded and staffed by Hawai'i Island Community Health Center. Each SBHC is staffed by a primary care provider and a nurse.

6. How does payment for SBHC services work?

No payments or copays will be expected at the school. Insurance information will be collected and when available, insurance will be billed for visits at the SBHC.

If you are not insured, we can connect you with an insurance enrollment team member who can assist with getting insurance or applying for our discount program.

Providing Consent to SBHC Services

7. Is signing up for the School Based Health Center mandatory?

No. Filling out the consent form and signing up your children for school based health care is optional. We hope the SBHC is a convenient and helpful way for students and staff to access care, and that the SBHC helps to keep our school a healthier place and decrease absences and time away from school. However, it is up to each 'ohana to choose how you prefer to receive care.

8. Will my child be seen at the School Based Health Center without my knowledge or without me?

You will be contacted by phone before each unplanned visit to confirm that you would like your child to be seen. If we are unable to reach you, we will defer to your written consent form for permission to see your child. If you have not turned in a written consent form and we cannot reach you to obtain verbal consent (described below) then we will not be able to see your child for that day's visit.

9. Can my child be seen at a School Based Health Center without a signed consent form?

If you would like your child to be seen at the SBHC, please turn in a signed consent form.

When a student visits the SBHC, we will verify that the child has a signed consent form. If they do not have a form on file, we will attempt to contact the child's parent/guardian for a one-time verbal consent.

This notifies you that your child is in the SBHC, and you then have the option to allow your child to be seen with your verbal permission or to choose for them not to be seen at that time.

To make sure that we have your consent to see your child at the SBHC, verbal permission is only good for that day's visit and may only be obtained once per school year. If your child comes into the SBHC for additional visits after the one-time verbal consent, and we still do not have a signed consent form, we will be unable to be seen that day without a parent/guardian present.

10. If I haven't signed my child up yet for the School Based Health Center is it too late?

We accept consent forms anytime throughout the school year.

You can ask the school staff for the consent form, or find it at www.hicommunityhealthcenter.org/sbhc

About Hawai'i Island Community Health Center

11. What is Hawai'i Island Community Health Center?

Hawai'i Island Community Health Center (HICHC) is a non-profit community health center. We were previously operating as Bay Clinic on the East side and West Hawaii Community Health Center on the West side of the island, and merged operations in 2022 under our new name, HICHC.

As a Federally Qualified Health Center, we provide care regardless of your ability to pay. No one is turned away for lack of insurance or inability to pay. Our team can assist you with insurance enrollment. Medicaid/Quest, Medicare, and most private insurance plans are accepted, and we offer a Sliding Fee Scale discount based on income level and household size.