

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a school based health center (SBHC)? The UCFS school-based health centers at Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School are a doctor's office inside of your child's school. The services are provided by an APRN (advanced practice registered nurse)/PA (Physician Assistant) and licensed behavioral health clinician who are experts in adolescent health and are employed by UCFS. The intention of the UCFS SBHC is to supplement the care your child receives at their pediatrician's office. The UCFS SBHC staff communicates with your child's primary care physician to keep them updated about the care your child receives at the UCFS SBHC.

The goals of a SBHC are to:

- Help students stay in school to receive needed care rather than have to leave campus.
- Improve students' academic achievement by taking care of medical and behavioral health needs that can make learning difficult.
- Remove barriers to care such as lack of transportation or insurance and to support school staff through wellness and educational events.

What services are provided at the SBHC? UCFS SBHC services include: yearly well-child examinations, vaccinations, sports physicals, acute care visits (e.g. sick visits, lacerations, injuries, etc.) and chronic care visits (e.g. asthma, ADHD, etc.). We encourage early intervention and prevention through prompt medical treatment and education. The behavioral health clinicians provide mental health assessments, substance use screenings and counseling. The APRN/PA and Behavioral Health Clinicians work closely with the school nurse to ensure effective communication.

Who can be seen at the SBHC? Any student with a signed enrollment form who attends Waterford Public Schools may be seen at the UCFS SBHC.

Is signing up for the SBHC Mandatory? It is not mandatory to sign your child up for the UCFS SBHC, but you must sign up and give consent for your child to be seen and treated at the SBHC. Enrollment forms are available on both the UCFS and Waterford Public Schools website as well as in the main office of all Waterford Public Schools.

Can my child be seen at the SBHC without a signed consent form? When a student arrives at the SBHC for either an acute or chronic visit, we verify that the child has a signed enrollment form. If they do not have a signed enrollment form, we attempt to contact the child's parent/guardian to have the forms completed online or they can be sent home with the student in order to receive medical care. A verbal consent is only good for 24 hours during a behavioral health visit for that one visit and may only be obtained once per school year. If your child comes into the UCFS SBHC for subsequent visits without a consent form signed by their parent/guardian they will be unable to be seen that day without a parent/guardian present.

Will these services be billed to my insurance? Yes, all services provided at the UCFS SBHC will be billed to the insurance listed on the completed registration form. Co-pays will be billed to responsible party. If your child is uninsured, please call our Access to Care Program at 860-822-4798 for a free insurance eligibility assessment.

Will my child be seen at the SBHC without my knowledge or without me being present? By enrolling in the UCFS SBHC, the parent gives permission for their child to be seen without a parent present, however the parent/legal guardian, school nurse and primary care provider will be informed of the visit and the parent can collaborate in treatment decisions. The parent/legal guardian is the individual with the right to make treatment decisions for their minor child (under the age of 18) unless CT law or the parent/guardian permits the minor child to consent to treatment without parental consent. CT law permits a minor child to consent to certain examinations and treatments under limited circumstances for drug abuse treatment and rehabilitation, venereal disease, birth control counseling, inpatient and outpatient mental health and HIV/AIDS testing and treatment. This CT law applies to all health care providers, not only to SBHCs. A minor may also consent to treatment decisions if the court has ordered that the child is emancipated.

How is the SBHC funded? UCFS bills the appropriate state or commercial insurances to fund its operation. Waterford Public Schools provides UCFS with space for the school based health center.

How do I register my child for the SBHC? Enrollment forms can be found on the UCFS School Based Health Center link (<https://www.ucfs.org/services/school-based-health-centers/>) on the Waterford Public Schools website or by calling 860-822-2803. Enrollment forms can also be found in the main office at each school or by emailing sbhc@ucfs.org.

What are the hours of operation? The SBHCs operate during school hours. An APRN/PA will be available Monday, Wednesday & Fridays from 8:00 am - 3:00 pm with a shared schedule between Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School. A full time Behavioral Health Clinician will be on site Monday-Friday, 8:00 am - 3:00 pm at Waterford High School and Clark Lane Middle School.

Can parents make referrals to behavioral health or does it need to come from the school or staff member? Yes, a parent/guardian may refer their child to UCFS SBHC behavioral health services, it does not need to come from the school or staff. The parent/guardian may fill out the enrollment form and check yes to behavioral health and someone will reach out to schedule or they can call our number (860-822-2803) to speak with a staff member.

Students enrolled in the Waterford Public School SBHC are also welcome to be seen at any UCFS location:

The Edward & Mary Lord Family Health Center
47 Town Street, Norwich
860-892-7042

New London Behavioral Health Office
351 North Frontage Road, Suite 24, New London
860-442-4319

Griswold Health Center
226 East Main Street, Griswold
860-376-7040

Colchester Behavioral Health Office
212 Upton Road, Suite C, Colchester
860-537-7676

Plainfield Health Center
120 Plainfield Road, Moosup
860-822-4938

The School Based Health Center is a partnership between

