



Woonsocket
Health Hut Handbook
*Keeping Kids Healthy at
School and at Home*

A partnership of Thundermist Health
Center of Woonsocket and the
Woonsocket School Department.
Serving Woonsocket High School.

Telephone: 767-4100

Fax: 235-6894

Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Friday

8:00 am – 2:00 pm

Thursday, 8:00 am – 12:00 pm



HEALTH HUT SERVICES

At the Health Hut You/Your Child 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 Diseases (STDs)
- Family planning counseling and contraceptives (requires separate parental consent)
- HIV testing
- Behavioral Health

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

After Hours Emergencies:

Assistance is available 24 hours a day, year round.

Call (401) 767-4100 with urgent medical or dental problems.

Inclement Weather:

Should the schools close due to inclement weather, the Health Hut will also be closed.

THUNDERMIST'S POLICY CONCERNING CONFIDENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES TO HEALTH HUT PATIENTS

Adolescents, while encouraged to communicate with their parents, can receive the following confidential services:

- Sexually Transmitted Disease Testing and Treatment
- Family Planning Counseling, Pregnancy Testing, and Follow-up Counseling/Referral
- Substance Abuse Counseling and Referral
- Birth Control (only if parent/guardian consent is provided)

We will only share information regarding these conditions with parents/guardians if the student 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: Counseling sessions must be maintained as 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 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 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. 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 Frequently Asked Questions 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.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

You can always ask us questions before you enroll your child. Please contact us at (401) 767-4100 or via email at HealthHut@thundermisthealth.org if you have any questions about our services or would like to schedule an informational visit.

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, case management, dental services, nutritional counseling through licensed Thundermist nutritionists, 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 disease testing/treatment and family planning counseling. Please note that birth control services are only provided with specific parental/guardian consent and you do not have to agree to allow your child to receive birth control to get other care at the Health Hut. *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 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).

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 question 3 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 (401) 767-4100.

3. Can I enroll my child for medical care even if I do not want them to receive birth control at the clinic?

Yes. Sign only the medical consent and not the birth control consent if you wish for the Health Hut to provide only routine medical care to your child, and not birth control services.

4. 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.

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 his/her 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 his or her 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) 615-2900

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.

Thundermist Health Hut

777 Cass Avenue, Woonsocket, RI 02895
Email: healthhut@thundermisthealth.org

Thundermist Health Center

450 Clinton Street, Woonsocket, RI 02895
www.thundermisthealth.org