

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 9, 2026

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Community Medical Clinic Expands School-Based Acute Care to All Kershaw County High Schools

The Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County (CMC), a nonprofit organization that provides free healthcare to uninsured individuals in our community, is proud to announce the expansion of its School-Based Health Center (SBHC) program. This growth will increase access to acute medical care for students, teachers, and school nurses across the Kershaw County School District.

This expansion has been made possible through continued partnership with the Kershaw County School District and funding support from The Health Services District of Kershaw County, enabling CMC to broaden access to care and expand services to additional schools.

As part of this expansion, the program will now include Camden High School and Lugoff-Elgin High School, ensuring all high school students in the district have access to on-campus care.

The program focuses on acute care services, allowing students to receive treatment for common illnesses and minor conditions such as colds, flu, sore throats, ear infections, and other non-emergency health concerns without ever leaving school grounds. This model removes barriers to access while helping keep students in the classroom.

CMC has successfully operated a School-Based Health Center at North Central High School since 2015. The program has helped decrease unexcused absences, increase student seat time, and positively impact overall academic success and graduation rates.

“One of the greatest predictors of long-term health is a high school diploma. Our goal is to bridge the gap by increasing access to medical care across all areas of our county,” said Kimberly Cogdill, FNP, Clinic Director and School-Based Health Center Nurse Practitioner for CMC.

“This expansion represents more than access to healthcare. It represents opportunity,” said Elizabeth Starling, Coordinator for Nursing Services for Kershaw County School District. “By bringing school-based health services to more of our students, we are removing barriers, addressing disparities, and creating healthier pathways for learning. When we invest in student health, we invest in student success.”

In addition to serving students, the expanded program will now also provide care for teachers and school nurses, further supporting the health and well-being of those who serve in local schools each day.

A dedicated CMC nurse practitioner will provide care through both in-person visits and telehealth services, offering assessment, diagnosis, and treatment of acute illnesses.

All services are provided at no cost to students, teachers, and school nurses, regardless of insurance or financial status.

The program also prioritizes communication with families. At every visit, parents are contacted to ensure they remain informed about their student's care and overall well-being.

The expansion of the School-Based Health Center program marks another step forward in strengthening community health through collaboration, accessibility, and innovation.

For more information about the Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County and its programs, visit www.cmcofkc.org.

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About CMC

Established in 1998, the Community Medical Clinic of Kershaw County (CMC) is dedicated to providing free primary care and preventive services to uninsured and underserved residents. By working collaboratively with local partners, CMC helps remove barriers to care while empowering individuals to take charge of their health and improve their quality of life.

Learn more at www.cmcofkc.org.