

Anglophone East School District and Horizon and Vitalité Health Network recognize that health and education are interdependent and are committed to working together to maintain and improve our students' overall health. We work in partnership on many initiatives to support improved health for all, including, immunizations and the healthy learners program, to name a few.

For many years now, our high school students have had access to confidential sexual health services, through our sexual health nurses. This year, we are pleased to share, that in collaboration with Horizon and Vitalité Health Network, we will be expanding our sexual health services in our high schools to include the services of nurse practitioners and/or physicians.

Current research indicates that one of the barriers to adolescents receiving sexual health services is location, meaning access to services. It is our hope that by expanding the individual sexual health clinical services available to students in our high schools, we will be helping to remove this barrier. It is important to note that all services available at school, will still be available to students in the community through their physician's office or at health clinics.

Our expanded service, offered by a public health nurse, a nurse practitioner, and/or a physician, will be referral-based, confidential, timely and accessible. Referrals can come from: a student, a parent, a teacher, a guidance counselor, a school administrator or other sources. Students and families will be informed of the schedule at their school and can call to make an appointment prior to the nurse / physician's arrival by calling 856-3310 or they can drop by the office on the designated day.

Public Health nurses, the nurse practitioner and or physician will provide individual sexual health clinical services such as :

- a. Sexual health counseling (healthy relationships, sexual orientation and gender identity, safe sexual practices);
- b. Birth control counseling and prescription for contraceptives, access to condoms
- c. Emergency contraception;
- d. Pregnancy tests;
- e. Pregnancy options decisions support
- f. Sexually transmitted diseases testing and treatment;
- g. Referral to other health care services or providers as needed.

As, High school students are able to consent to their own medical services as per the New Brunswick Medical Consent of Minors Act, the services they receive are confidential. Whether accessing services through their family physician, a clinic or school based service, a student's expectation of confidentiality and rights to privacy are the same.

Their privacy will be protected by the nurses and nurse practitioners as per the Personal Health Information and Privacy Act and the Right to Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

In closing, Anglophone East School District and Horizon and Vitalité Health Network are committed to working together to maintain and improve our students' overall health; and we believe providing access to individual sexual health services at our high schools, will only contribute to the overall health of our students.

To find out more about these services please contact your school or the Office of the Superintendent at 856-3222.