Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

Whitney Young Health - like you - is experiencing the unprecedented impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and we are taking all possible precautions to protect our patients and staff.

Before you come to your appointment:
We are asking all patients to please call (518) 465-4771 before coming to their appointment if:

- They are experiencing symptoms of fever, cough or shortness of breath;
- Have had contact with anyone who has been diagnosed with COVID-19; or
- If they have traveled recently.

In an effort to conserve and consolidate resources, some of our services have been temporarily suspended until further notice:

- The Troy Health Center has CLOSED TEMPORARILY
- Routine Dental services have been STOPPED TEMPORARILY
- Dental emergencies will be seen during the hours of 8am-1pm at the Albany Dental Clinic (900 Lark Drive, Albany)
- WIC offices in Albany and Watervliet CLOSED TEMPORARILY.
(IMPORTANT: If you receive WIC services through Whitney Young Health, you will continue to receive benefits, as we are issuing them remotely. If you are currently out of WIC benefits and have not been contacted by a WIC staff member, please call the WIC office at 518-465-9387.)

COVID-19 Screening:
All patients and visitors to our Albany and Watervliet Health Centers, as well as our Harry and Jeannette Weinberg Treatment Center, will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

Social Distancing:
Effective immediately, we are enforcing social distancing by limiting the number of individuals in our health centers to one patient and one caregiver/support person per appointment slot.

We will be posting regular updates on the COVID-19 page on our website, so please check in regularly as the situation evolves.

Thank you and be well,
The Whitney Young Health family

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**Now More Than Ever**

The COVID-19 pandemic has turned so many lives upside-down. Beyond the sickness itself, people are finding themselves out of work, kids are being home-schooled, bills still need to be paid, and routine and ongoing medical concerns still need to be managed.

Whitney Young Health continues to operate primary medical, behavioral health and addiction services, but many of our programs, such as dental services, school-based health, and mobile health have been temporarily suspended, resulting in a substantial negative impact on operating revenue.

Our patient visit volume is 20% of what we normally see.

We need your help during this time as we are facing significant operational and financial challenges. Please consider making a donation to help support our mission to provide quality healthcare to some of the most vulnerable and underserved people in our community.

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**Click below to donate to Whitney Young Health.**

DONATE

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**Telehealth: Virtual office visits available to Whitney Young Health Patients**
Over the past few years telehealth - the ability to have virtual "office visits" with healthcare providers via smart phone, tablet or computer for routine health conditions - has become increasingly widespread.

Patients served by Whitney Young Health have access to telehealth through a secure portal on our website and a smart phone app called Healow. This technology, which allows patients to consult with a WYH provider without making a trip to the health center has become especially important during the COVID-19 pandemic.

With social distancing guidelines and stay-at-home orders in place, telehealth appointments are keeping the people we serve connected to and cared for by our providers while lessening the risks posed by going to public places. Providers can diagnose and treat many common ailments such as cold and flu, rashes and headaches; fill prescriptions and refer patients to a specialist or to the hospital if they need a higher level of care.

If you or someone you know would make a telehealth appointment with Whitney Young Health, please click to learn how to use:

- The Portal (for use on desktop or laptop computers), or
- The Healow app (for smartphones and tablets).

For additional information, please call (518) 465-4771 to speak to an information associate.

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**Whitney Young Health and Equinox Discussing Potential Merger**

Whitney M. Young, Jr. Health Center and Equinox, Inc. have announced that their boards of directors recently approved a letter of intent to explore the possibility of merging the two organizations.

Whitney Young Heath President and CEO David Shippee and Virginia Golden, CEO of Equinox, see the potential merger as a natural progression, as the two agencies have a history of partnering on projects, including WYH providing HIV and Hepatitis C testing and counseling at select Equinox locations for the last seven years.

Both organizations are currently collaborating on a primary care and prompt care clinic, operated by Whitney Young Health, along with an Equinox satellite mental health clinic and supportive housing facility located at 526 Central Avenue in Albany.

To read the full news release, click [here](#).
Whitney Young Health is proud to announce that 2019 ended with exciting news for our Whitney on Wheels (WOW) program, which received a major grant of $300,000 from the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation to purchase and outfit a second mobile health unit.

The grant will enable us to add a second, larger mobile health unit that will not only increase the number of sites where services can be provided, but will also be handicapped accessible, which opens up care to people who previously could not be served on the first WOW.

The Whitney on Wheels program was introduced in 2015 to bring primary care services such as physicals, sick visits, vaccinations, STI and HIV testing, blood draws, and chronic disease management directly to medically underserved populations.

With a second mobile unit, we can meet the growing demand for regularly scheduled WOW sites in the community. Over the past 5 years, the number WOW sites has grown from two to 18, providing services at residential treatment centers, schools, shelters and community organizations throughout the Albany/Rensselaer region.

Whitney Young Health in the Community

Something to Smile About

Tammy, a dental hygienist with Whitney Young Health's Seal a Smile program, visited Carroll Hill Elementary School in South Troy to demonstrate proper tooth-brushing and other oral hygiene techniques to a 4th grade classroom.

The Seal a Smile program, operated in conjunction with the Healthy Capital District Initiative is a school-based program which provides oral health education, screenings, cleanings and sealants, with parental consent, for low-income children in Albany and Rensselaer counties.

Giffen Elementary School Siblings Group

Siblings who attend Giffen Elementary
School in Albany participated in a Siblings Group run by Whitney Young Health’s School-Based Health Center and WIC program staff.

The group, which met on two successive Wednesdays, helps to encourage healthy bonding between siblings, which is important to development and lifelong social skills. Group activities concentrated on working together and good hygiene while having fun.

**Top:** WIC Director Katie Palmer looks on as one of two groups of kids get into large fabric loops, requiring teamwork to race across the room.

**Bottom:** A student makes toothpaste out of baking soda, water and either peppermint or vanilla extract.

### Abrookin Students Visit Whitney Young Health

Seniors from Abrookin Career and Technical Center, part of Albany High School, recently toured Whitney Young Health’s Albany Health Center.

The students, who are all on track to enter the medical field after graduation, learned about volunteer and employment options, community health and other topics relevant to their future careers.

### "Rising Readers" Donate Books

Vaishali (left) and Labika (right), seniors at Shaker High School in Colonie, are the founders of Rising Readers, a student-led service group that collects new and used books for children in need.

In late February, the duo delivered over 500 children’s and young adult books to be distributed to pediatric patients at Whitney Young Health.