

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:** Tuesday, July 9, 2019

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## **LPPS partners with Henry Ford Health System to open school health and wellness center at LPHS**

*Lincoln Park's new school-based and community health clinic will begin serving patients this fall*

**LINCOLN PARK, Mich.** – Lincoln Park Public Schools today announced a new partnership with **Henry Ford Health System's (HFHS) Department of Pediatrics** to open a school health and wellness center at Lincoln Park High School. The district's new school-based and community health program will open this fall to increase access to healthcare services for students from Lincoln Park and surrounding communities.

"We are incredibly thankful Henry Ford Health System chose Lincoln Park Public Schools to be the first downriver school district to participate in their school health and wellness program," said **Terry Dangerfield**, superintendent of Lincoln Park Public Schools. "This partnership will help us meet the individual health needs of students in our community by making it easier for them to access vital healthcare services they need."

Lincoln Park's school health and wellness center will provide basic primary care and behavioral health services to patients between the ages of 4 and 21 and special education students up to age 26. The clinic will be staffed by a registered nurse and licensed social worker from HFHS. Services will include:

- Nursing care for common illnesses and injuries
- Mental health evaluations and treatment plan development
- Health education and risk reduction counseling
- Referrals in the Henry Ford Health System networks for other services not available at the school clinic

"As a downriver resident for over 20 years, I have seen firsthand the need for an expansion of medical and mental health services to youth in our communities," said **Christie Wilkewitz**, group practice director of the School-Based and Community Health Program for Henry Ford Health System. "I am honored to represent Henry Ford Health System in this partnership with Lincoln Park Public Schools to create an innovative model of care for students."

For LPPS students to receive services, their parents must complete and sign a consent form from HFHS that will be kept on file at the clinic. LPHS students can walk-in at any time with the permission of their teacher or make an appointment. Parents of students from other LPPS buildings will be notified if their child needs to see the clinic nurse and arrangements can be made from there.

The school health and wellness center will be open year-round and take appointments from 8 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. Priority for appointments will be given to LPPS students.

“Our new health and wellness center provides a tremendous opportunity to help improve the lives and overall health of students from downriver communities,” said **Mandy Mercer**, an LPPS school nurse consultant. “Offering students these free services at the high school will eliminate some of the barriers that have historically prevented students in our area from receiving the health care services they need.”

The School-Based and Community Health Program has operated school health centers in Detroit, Highland Park and Macomb County since 1995. The program is currently operating in 11 schools across the region. The Lincoln Park Health and Wellness Center will be one of four new school health centers opening in the fall.

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