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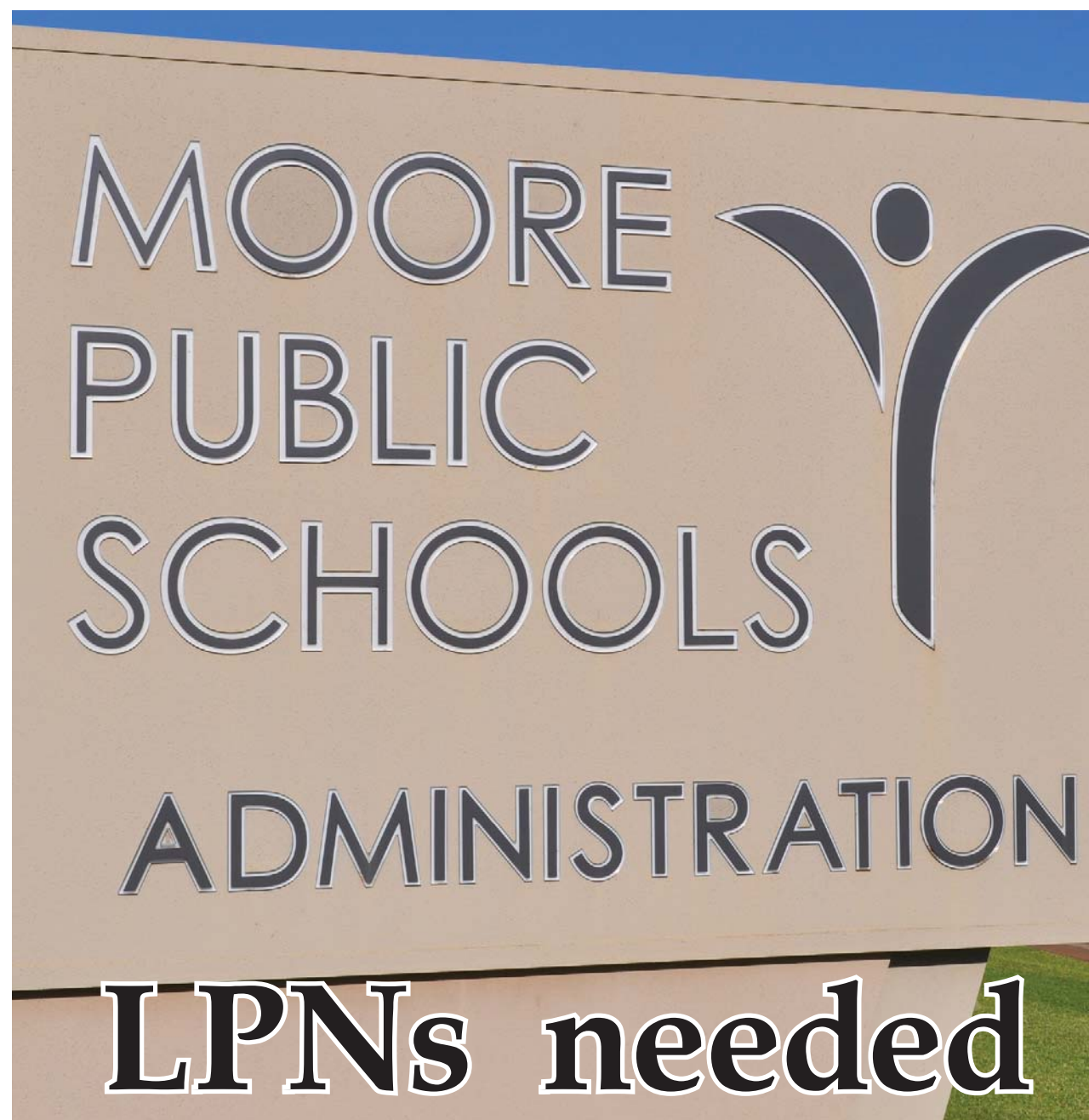
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Back to School



Moore Public Schools plans to hire 30 LPNs to staff every school in the district this fall

by Bobby Anderson, RN - staff writer/photographer

Without a doubt, when students return to the classroom this fall school will look different than ever before.

CDC guidelines intended to halt the spread of Covid 19 have schools nationwide scrambling to prepare for students in August.

And one local district plans to rely on nurses to

help lead the way.

Gyla Davis is the assistant director for support services for Moore Public Schools.

Recently, the district announced it would have either an LPN or RN at each school site for the 2020-21 school year.

The district already has five RNs and will hire 30 LPNs for the fall.

See LPNS Page 2

Safety Protocols in Place at OU Medicine as COVID-19 Infections Continue

Emergency medical care should never be delayed, and OU Medicine has implemented extensive protocols to ensure patients are kept safe in the Emergency Department as COVID-19 infections continue in Oklahoma.

OU Medicine's three Emergency Departments – at OU Medical Center, OU Medical Center Edmond, and The Children's Hospital – have each created a safe environment so that patients can feel comfortable accessing the care they need. That includes universal masking, modified check-in to maintain physical distancing, personal protective equipment worn by all healthcare providers, and continuous disinfection of surfaces. In addition, OU Medicine has instituted employee screening, testing and isolation policies to ensure patients are cared for by a provider who is negative for COVID-19.

Many health conditions and injuries can prompt the need for someone to seek emergency care, and patients should feel confident that OU Medicine's Emergency Departments are among the safest places to be, said Kris Gose, president of OU Medical Center.

"People should always feel like they can access emergency care safely and at the same high quality that we strive to provide each and every day," Gose said. "We have taken every step possible so that our patients can safely seek care for urgent needs at any time of the day or night."

As home to the state's only Level 1 Trauma Center, the Emergency Department at OU Medical Center can handle any illness and injury, from strokes to cardiac pain to acute pain. Because OU Medicine is the state's comprehensive medical center, patients have access to more specialists and subspecialists than anywhere else in the state, Gose said, and advanced technology is always available, including a cardiac catheterization/electrophysiology lab for patients needing heart and vascular care when minutes count.

People should especially be aware of the signs of stroke and heart attack and call 911 for immediate help. Signs of stroke include sudden numbness or weakness in the face, arm or leg; sudden confusion, trouble speaking or difficulty understanding speech;

See OU Page 2

OU

Continued from Page 1

sudden trouble seeing; sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or lack of coordination; and sudden headache with no known cause.

Signs of heart attack include pressure, tightness, pain or a squeezing or aching sensation in the chest or arms that may spread to the neck, jaw and back; nausea, indigestion, heartburn or abdominal pain; and shortness of breath, cold sweat, fatigue or lightheadedness with dizziness.

OU Medical Center Edmond is positioned to offer convenient care close to home, and as part of the OU Medicine system, it provides a seamless transition of care to OU Medical Center and The Children's Hospital, both in downtown Oklahoma City, if necessary. The Edmond Emergency Department can treat a wide range of illnesses and injuries among all ages, and it provides specialized services to seniors, including hearing amplifiers, easy-to-maneuver rooms and hallways, aids for reading, and specially trained staff.

In addition, OU Medical Center Edmond has been designated as a non-COVID hospital. Patients who arrive with symptoms of COVID-19

are further screened and directed or transported to OU Medical Center downtown if they test positive for the virus.

"Emergency medical care never stops, and we want to assure people that our hospital is safe and operating at full capacity during this time of ongoing COVID-19 infections," said Lisa Wilson, president of OU Medical Center Edmond. "We treat patients who have a wide range of needs, and we are supported by the expertise and tools of the entire health system."

Parents and families can expect the same safety and level of care at The Children's Hospital at OU Medicine. The Emergency Department at Children's is Oklahoma's only dedicated 24/7 pediatric emergency facility, and its physicians and medical staff are trained specifically in the healing of children. Children receive Level 1 Trauma Center care, and an additional Emergency Department specifically for women's obstetrics is on the fourth floor of The Children's Hospital.

Parents and caregivers should call 911 in the case of a life-threatening emergency, including if the child is unresponsive; has serious trouble breathing; has ingested something dangerous; has experienced a head

injury and continues to vomit or has varying levels of alertness; is having seizures that won't stop; and many other types of illness and injury.

The Children's Hospital also has full-time Child Life Specialists who support children and families by explaining medical procedures, helping children with relaxation and coping skills, and providing opportunities for play, among other services.

LPNS

Continued from Page 1

"Coming back to school and not knowing exactly what guidelines are going to look like and how many students are coming back we just felt in the district it was very important to have a certified medical professional at every site," Davis said. "The folks that make the decisions in our district knew that was important and would be very important to parents."

"That would make sure there will be a nurse of some ranking at every site all day long."

The positions are coded as an LPN/Teaching Assistant position to fall under the support personnel umbrella for the district.

Davis confirmed federal funds are not being used for the position.

"I think we would like to see them stay as long as there is a need," Davis said of the new nurses.

Davis graduated from Moore Public Schools and has worked for the district for nearly 20 years.

She said the plan is a first for one of the largest districts in the state.

"We've always had a body of nurses that took care of sites on their assignment lists but I think we've come to a place where (staffing each school) is going to be necessary for the health and well-being of our kids," Davis said.

Daily temperature checks and monitoring signs and symptoms of Covid and other illnesses will be priorities for nurses, Davis said.

"Above and beyond that they will also assist with needs of other students throughout the day - medication, bumps and bruises and injuries and basic triage throughout the school day," Davis said.

The district announced in June that parents could choose from three options for their child's instruction for the upcoming year. The traditional option calls for students to attend all their classes in person just like they have always done. The second option is for students to receive half of their

"We know that in times of emergency, parents and caregivers want quick and high-quality care for their children," said Jon Hayes, president of The Children's Hospital. "As we all adjust to life with ongoing COVID-19 concerns, we know that other types of needs still arise, and we are committed to providing a safe atmosphere and peace of mind for both children and families."

instruction online and half in the traditional classroom setting.

The third option allows students to receive all of their instruction online.

And with most school districts ending classroom instruction prior to spring break earlier this year, August will be the first time students have been together in one place since prior to social distancing guidelines.

"If the numbers rise again with Covid a parent can make a decision at any time to switch their track. They're not locked into it once they make a decision," Davis said. "(Flexibility) is extremely important. Safety and security is most important to us. If parents don't feel like they can have an option to educate their kiddos in a safe and healthy environment then we're not doing our due diligence."

"We want parents to have faith that we want kids to be healthy and safe. We want them to come to school if they can and if they can't then we'll take care of them at home."

Those interested can go to the Moore Public Schools web site to apply for the positions.

"There's 30 opportunities for them to be a part of Moore Public Schools if they're interested," Davis said.

Earlier this month a report from the School Superintendents Association and the Association of School Business Officials International noted districts will face an additional financial burden this fall due to Covid 19.

According to the report, the average district would incur nearly \$1.8 million in additional expenses, with the bulk of the spending going toward hiring additional custodial staff, nurses and aides to take students' temperatures before they board school buses.

These calculations assume the statistics of an average school district with 3,659 students, eight school buildings, 183 classrooms, 329 staff members, and 40 school buses (transporting at 25% capacity, or 915 students, to comply with recommended social distancing guidelines).

In comparison, Moore Public Schools has 35 schools serving 20,000 students with 1,500 certified educators.

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OKC Nurse Goes to NYC - Regarding Pandemic

by Vickie Jenkins - Writer/Photographer

A big thank you to all of the nurses that volunteered to go to New York City to help care for the many patients that were battling with COVID-19. These individuals were to spend three weeks in a chaotic situation, full of the unknown. One particular nurse was Kris Buckley, who is an RN at OU Medicine.

Kris is known to be an open-minded person who likes the simple things in life. He is a hard worker and sets his goals high. He loves spending time with his family and continues to learn as much as he can, in the medical field and in his everyday life. He is a caring person and thinks of the other person first. Below, is his story of spending three weeks in New York City; caring for critically ill patients as he works with the others as they face COVID-19, putting them on the frontline. Thank you to

everyone in the medical staff, for you are all true heroes.

I traveled to Manhattan for a twenty-one day assignment at Bellevue Hospital. The agency I contracted with put myself and 2000 other nurses up in a high-rise hotel in Times Square. We were bussed to the hospital every morning at 0545 and worked 13-14 hour shifts for nineteen of the twenty-one days. I was basically coming up to the room, cleaning up and going to bed so I could get up in a few hours and go straight back to the hospital.

I was floated between several COVID-19 ICU's in the hospital. I was assigned to several rooms that were makeshift, using surgical units and old wings of the hospital. All single rooms were doubled with patients and ratio was high with nurses caring for 5-6 patients, mostly vented patients in the ICU. After the first week or so the ratios

began improving due to the high number of nurses pouring in from all over the country. Eventually it was down to a manageable 1/2 or 1/3 ratio. The work was constant as the patients acuity levels were always high. Some units were not equipped with negative pressure so N-95's or respirators were required at all times as well as hoods and goggles and gowns. Without being able to drink anything for hours at a time many nurses became dehydrated quickly, including myself. Pressure injuries were common due to PPE. Code blues occurred several time an hour. Patients were alone for weeks at a time with only healthcare staff as their companions and advocates. We were the only ones there when they were extubated and we were the only ones there when many of the patients died. New Yorkers were aware of the scale of the issue and it was

evident everywhere I went. Very few people were in public, besides food delivery people and healthcare workers. Almost everybody wore masks everywhere. It would feel shameful not to. But New Yorkers were gracious. I've never felt so appreciated. From cheering crowds outside at shift change to random thank you's while walking in scrubs. It was very uplifting. But coming back to Oklahoma was a culture shock. I was surprised by how carefree the public was, gathering in large groups and ignoring social group and mask recommendations. People act like the pandemic is over while rates are increasing. Our population density is smaller so the virus many spread slower, but I do fear a second major outbreak.

I learned a lot about my work but also a lot about myself. My beliefs of COVID-19 have evolved.

See BUCKLEY Page 5

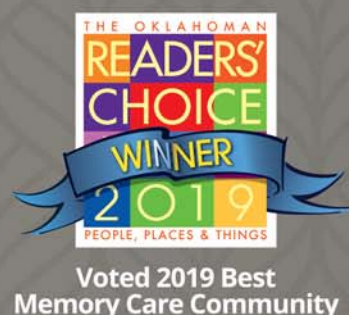


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Kris Buckley, RN, at OU Medicine is one of nurses that traveled to New York City, spending three weeks caring for critically ill patients with COVID-19.

BUCKLEY
Continued from Page 4

I know it is more serious than I once thought. When I returned from NYC I self isolated for two weeks while my sister kept my son. After that I took a little more time to recuperate before returning to work. Now, myself

and my family wear masks in public and at work just in case we become infected. We wouldn't want to put our patients or others at risk. We practice appropriate hand hygiene and avoid large groups and busy public places. I believe the general public should follow similar practices.



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SITUATION
UPDATE: COVID-19

- As of this advisory, there are 8,073 confirmed positive cases of COVID-19 in Oklahoma.
- There are no additional deaths.
- There are 359 total deaths in the state.
- This week's Oklahoma COVID-19 Weekly Report is now available. Reports from weeks past can be found here.
- While the Reopening Plan for long term care facilities goes into effect on Monday (6/15), please remember that facilities are first required to verify with OSDH that they have updated their infection control plan before they allow visitors. We are working with facilities to develop updated visitation policies.
- COVID-19 testing sites are open in multiple cities in Oklahoma as a result of a cross-county, city and state health system partnership. Visit this page for updated dates and locations.
- For more information, visit coronavirus.health.ok.gov.

COVID-19
Oklahoma Test
Results

Confirmed Positive Cases	8,073
*Total Cumulative Negative Specimens to Date	242,587
*Total Cumulative Number of Specimens to Date	252,624
**Currently Hospitalized	149
Total Cumulative Hospitalizations	1,111
Deaths in the Past 24 hours	0
Total Cumulative Deaths	359

*The total includes laboratory information provided to OSDH at the time of the report. Total counts may not reflect unique individuals.

**This number is a combination of hospitalized positive cases and hospitalized persons under investigation, as reported by hospitals at the time of the report. The data reflect a change in calculation and should not be compared to prior data.

Data Source: Acute Disease Service, Oklahoma State Department of Health. *As of 2020-06-13 at 7:00 a.m.

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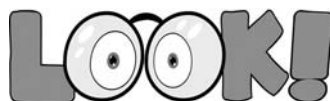
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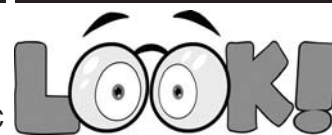
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Family Nurse Practitioner service-learning project brings care into the community

At The University of Tulsa, students in the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) program receive individual attention and the tools necessary to help them elevate nursing core values to the advanced practice, primary care level. These students are challenged to pay forward their advanced practice knowledge and skills in assessment, diagnosis and prescribing through ongoing opportunities to make their communities a better place for all. One recent example of FNP service learning involved students providing sports physicals free of charge to students at Will Rogers College High School, a Title 1 institution.

This initiative began two years ago, when the FNP program's director, Sheryl Stansifer, learned that many students at Will Rogers were returning to school in August without a completed sports physical. The lack of such a physical, which typically costs \$20 or more, means a young person cannot participate in school sports.

The first year Stansifer and her FNP students went to Will Rogers, they completed 160 physicals. The next year, that figure climbed to 200. The school's athletic director, Krystel Markwardt, enthused about the impact of "this wonderful program," noting that "our students come from diverse economic backgrounds, and their families couldn't afford to pay for physicals. The FNP students work quickly and efficiently, and their efforts mean our athletes are able to compete in the summer and be prepared for early fall sports." As Stansifer pointed out, the issue is "bigger than playing basketball or joining the swim team. For many kids, getting involved in sports means they will stay in school and graduate."

The benefits of this service-learning project are tangible for both the young athletes and the FNP students. Sports physicals are a common component of primary care, and all of TU's FNP students must complete pediatric assessments and be checked off on sports physicals. Providing sports physicals to the Will Rogers students enables the future FNP's to satisfy that requirement. In addition, Stansifer commented, delivering these physicals "enables faculty members to assess FNP students' interactions with the patients/athletes and their ability to complete the forms accurately. Because so many health care teams comprise a variety of professionals, having an opportunity to collaborate with the school's athletic trainer adds a critical interdisciplinary component to their development."

Two of the FNP students who participated in service learning are Alejandra Paredes and Vicky Cha. Originally from Peru (she moved to the United States when she was 13), Paredes has been a registered nurse (RN) since 2014. Cha is a first-



Family nurse practitioner students Alejandra Paredes and Vicky Cha demonstrate skill and compassion during a pediatric exam.

generation Hmong-American who grew up in California. She has been an RN since 2015.

"I always knew my career end-goal was to become a nurse practitioner (NP)," Paredes said. "But I wanted to gain experience as an RN so I could become a better NP. I am looking forward to having more autonomy in the care that I deliver to my patients, and it's important to me to be able to help them focus on health maintenance and disease prevention, while being mindful of individuals' emotional, physical and spiritual health." Cha has her gaze set on working as an FNP in urgent care. "Seeing NPs' selflessness, commitment and integral role in patient care both inspired me and solidified my determination to pursue an advanced practice degree."

For Paredes, one of the benefits of TU's FNP program is the "huge relief" of not having to find a preceptor. She also cited the diverse network of clinical sites, which "serve as a great way for students to learn and implement their knowledge." Paredes recently spent a semester at a clinic caring for a largely underserved population where most of the patients spoke Spanish, which is her native language. Cha has a similar interest in bringing health care to people who are often on the margins. "I admire the TU School of Nursing's mission to not only cultivate students to become leaders in health care, but also to give back to their communities."

This is something Cha experienced first hand with the Will Rogers service-learning initiative, and which resonated on a personal level. "My parents were Hmong refugees and I grew up with minimal resources. One of the biggest struggles was not being able to take part in sports because my parents couldn't afford the fees and transportation. Providing free sports physicals for Will Rogers students, many of whom have a background similar to mine, exemplifies one of the most rewarding aspects of nursing: making a positive impact on another person's life." Reflecting on her experience providing physicals for these youth, Paredes arrived at a similar conclusion: "I believe that caring for others, regardless of social, racial or economic background, is a core value of nursing."

Is the coronavirus here to stay?

Chicken pox. Measles. HIV. Covid-19.

Even after the pandemic subsides, the coronavirus is likely to join the list of contagious diseases that remain in circulation for decades to come, according to health experts at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

"It looks like Covid-19 will be here for the long haul," said OMRF President Stephen Prescott, M.D.

When illnesses stubbornly resist efforts to stamp them out, experts call them endemic.

"An endemic is a virus that's always present, but not usually in huge outbreaks. It comes and goes in waves and just becomes a part of life, like the seasonal flu," said OMRF physician-scientist Scofield, M.D., who also serves as associate chief of staff for research at the Oklahoma City VA.

Multiple initiatives are working toward the development of a vaccine for the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus. But even if these efforts succeed, unless nearly everyone gets vaccinated, they won't eliminate the virus.

"I'm skeptical a Covid-19 vaccine will wipe out the virus," he said. "We have highly effective vaccines for pneumococcal pneumonia, but only about 2 of every 3 adults have received even one. As a result, pneumococcal pneumonia is still responsible for roughly half of all pneumonia deaths in the U.S. every year."

A survey of Oklahomans earlier this month from Amber Integrated found that only 55 percent of those polled would get a vaccine against the coronavirus if one became available. Similarly, a poll by The Washington



Post found that only 7 in 10 Americans were interested in getting vaccinated.

"Even if it proves safe and effective, you will still have many Americans who don't vaccinate because they don't believe in it or don't trust a new vaccine," Scofield said. "And that will keep the virus around."

Outside the U.S., especially in developing countries, access to the vaccine could also be a major issue. For example, with pneumococcal pneumonia, nearly 500,000 children under the age of 5 die every year from

what Scofield describes as a "nearly completely preventable disease."

The effects of SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus will likely grow milder over time, said Prescott. "Our immune systems should develop 'memories' of the virus that will blunt or eliminate future infections," he said. "It's also possible the virus itself will mutate to a less lethal form, which is more advantageous from an evolutionary perspective."

All told, Prescott said, "There's a good chance it will join the four other

coronaviruses that already circulate seasonally in our population." Those viruses are much milder than the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus, causing only cold-like illnesses.

One way or the other, Prescott said, we should be prepared to coexist with the virus for the foreseeable future. "That doesn't mean a perpetual lockdown," he said. "But it does mean incorporating precautions like frequent hand-washing and some forms of social distancing into our daily lives if we want to stay safe."

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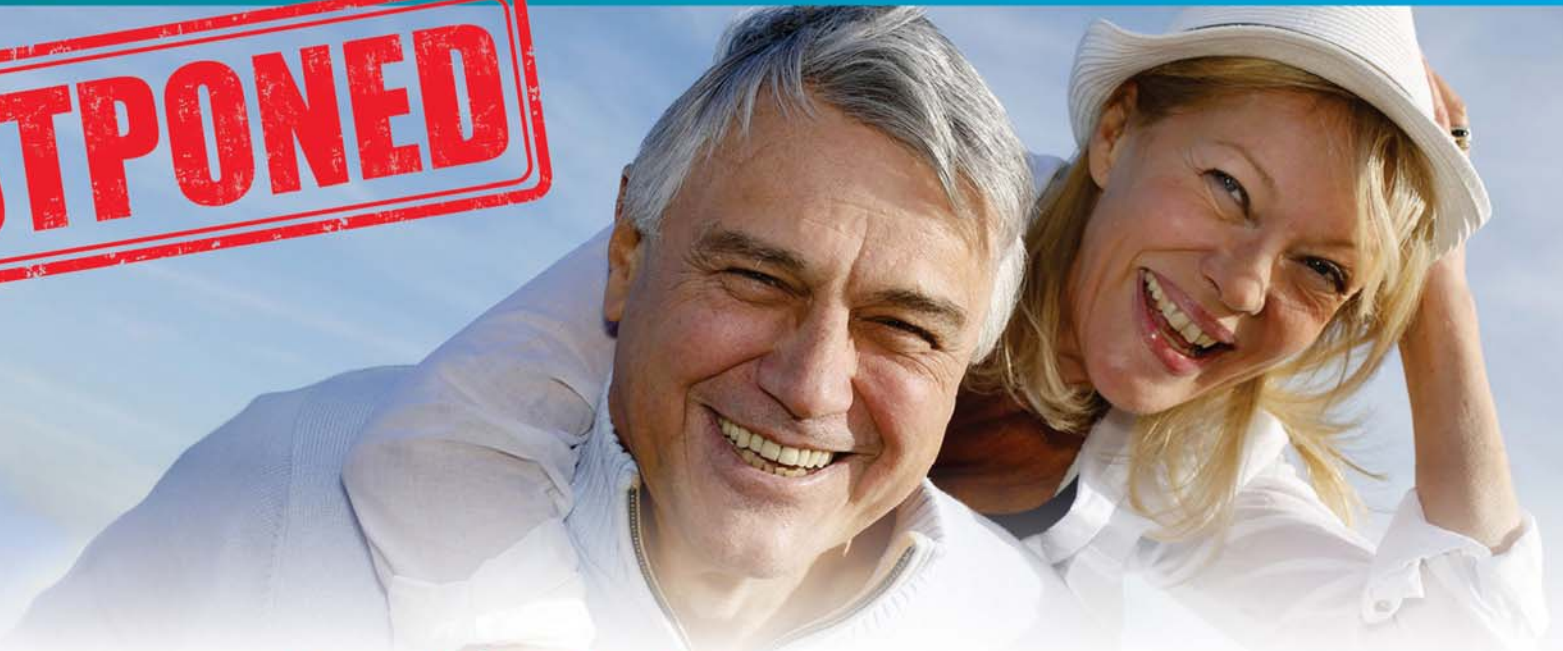
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The Children's Hospital at OU MEDICINE ACQUIRES PEDIATRIC AFTER-HOURS CLINICS

The Children's Hospital at OU Medicine has announced the acquisition of Kids 1st, a pediatric-focused after-hours clinic with two locations in the Oklahoma City metro area. OU Children's Physicians will oversee the day-to-day operations of the clinics.

Kids 1st will continue to offer services in north Oklahoma City at 12516 N. May Ave., and in Edmond at 2820 N. Kelly Ave., Suite 100. Clinic hours are 5 to 10 p.m., Monday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday and Sunday.

"We are excited to be able to expand our services for the children of the Oklahoma City and Edmond metro areas," said Morris Gessouroun, MD, chair of pediatrics at The Children's Hospital. "For children needing timely medical care the Kids 1st Urgent Care locations allow

convenient access to high quality children's healthcare during weekends and evening hours. Parents will have that added level of assurance knowing the full resources of the pediatric specialists, staff and facilities of The Children's Hospital and OU Children's Physicians are available to back up that care whenever a child needs additional services."

Services provided by Kids 1st, include:

- On-site lab: complete blood count, chemistries, rapid strep, urinalysis, rapid influenza test, rapid RSV test, monospot test
- Routine X-ray services (chest and extremities)
- Treatment of minor wounds and burns
- Evaluation for broken bones - splinting and stabilization only
- Asthma therapy
- Treatment of common childhood illnesses - colds, flu,

strep, etc.

- Sports injury initial evaluation and treatment

"Kids 1st clinics are designed as a convenient supplement to a child's pediatrician when a families' schedule or the urgency of a child's illness necessitates care after regular business hours," explained Jon Hayes, president of The Children's Hospital. "The after-hours clinics are staffed by pediatricians committed to providing the highest quality of care during non-traditional office hours."

Families who are used to utilizing Kids 1st clinics will continue to be able to contact them at (405) 751-KIDS. Most major insurance plans are accepted. For more information, go to: www.kidsfirstok.com.

At The Children's Hospital, pediatric staff blends years of training with education, research

and technology to improve the lives of children throughout the region. The obstetric emergency room at The Children's Hospital is a regional referral center for the state, and the neonatal intensive care unit provides the highest level of newborn care in Oklahoma. Children's is also home to the only 24/7 pediatric emergency room in Oklahoma City. With a family-centered approach to healing, Children's offers resources from pet therapy to child life specialists who help families cope with hospitalization and illness. From advanced surgical services to general pediatrics, oncology care and more, The Children's Hospital provides cutting-edge research and treatments through hospital-based and outpatient services. To learn more, visit oumedicine.com/childrens.



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