

# PHC Tiger Creek School-based clinic now open year-round

By KATIE WARD  
Staff Writer

After seeing a need for local school children and families to have convenient access to health care, Primary Health Care Center began opening school-based health clinics across Northwest Georgia.

Then, seeing that need extended beyond the school year, Primary added summer hours at its Tiger Creek Elementary clinic.

"The Catoosa County School Board gave us permission to open [Tiger Creek Clinic] during the summer, so now we are open Monday through Friday in the summer," said Primary Healthcare Center CEO Diana Allen. "We hope to be open

year-round from now on. That's the plan and the hope."

In addition to adding service hours, Primary is adding to its lineup of school clinics with a new one at Walker County's Gilbert Elementary School that is expected to open Sept.

"I think we will see more and more school-based health clinics open," Allen said. "I think communities and school systems see the need. The clinic at Tiger Creek has been very successful. We get a lot of positive



Diana Allen



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Primary Healthcare Centers Tiger Creek Health Clinic is now open in the summer as well as throughout the school year.

feedback."

She said school-based health clinics are essentially a doctor's office. In addition to treating conditions like the flu or strep throat, care for chronic conditions including diabetes, asthma and high blood pressure is offered. A nutritionist is on staff to provide

counseling, and a dentist and dental hygienist come once a week.

"We not only see children, we see parents of the children, and school personnel," said Allen. "Fifty percent of our patients are low-income and uninsured. We accept Medicaid and Medicaid. We are a United Way

partner agency."

She said the number of patients seen at the Tiger Creek clinic increases day by day.

"We try to keep the children from being absent so much," Allen said of the initial motivation behind the clinics. "The parent does not have to miss work and the child

does not have to miss instruction time. Accessibility is the most important thing. School-based health care clinics have proven to be helpful."

Right now, Primary Healthcare Center has five clinics in Northwest Georgia: in Rossville, Trenton, Summerville, Cedartown and at Tiger Creek. A nonprofit federally funded health care center headquartered in LaFayette, PHC works closely with Emory Healthcare Residency Teaching program in regards to the clinics, said Allen.

To learn more about Primary Healthcare Centers, visit [primaryhealthcarecenter.org](http://primaryhealthcarecenter.org).  
Email: [Katie.Ward@timefreepress.com](mailto:Katie.Ward@timefreepress.com)

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