



## Eagle River Secondary

PO Box 9, Sicamous, BC, V0E 2V0

Phone: (250) 836-2831, FAX: (250) 804-7784

email: [ers@sd83.bc.ca](mailto:ers@sd83.bc.ca) website: <http://www.ers.sd83.bc.ca>

Dear Parents/Guardians:

As you may have heard, SD83 has been working with the Division of Family Practice to add a Wellness Centre in our school. Modelled after the SAS Sullivan Wellness Centre, the **ERS Wellness Centre** will be designed to match the needs of Eagle River students.

The first Wellness Centre at Salmon Arm Secondary was created in 2018 to address a need for better mental health and substance use support for youth in the area. In most cases, these students were unable to access pre-existing services due to a lack of awareness, poor inter-agency collaboration, and geographic isolation. Services offered at the Wellness Center are similar to what can be accessed at clinics in Salmon Arm, but are now also provided in Sicamous.

The Wellness Centre is a school-based clinic offering space for comprehensive health care to students and services offered include a physician, with referrals to: psychiatry, addictions counsellor, mental health counsellor and trauma informed counsellor. They also provide access to a sexual health nurse, public health nurse, and more. Check out <http://sassullivanwellness.com/come-drop-in/what-you-can-expect/> to see the types of programs and services that will be offered through the Wellness Centre.

Students will have access to a doctor in the medical clinic two Wednesdays a month, starting January 15, 2020. On the days the doctor is in the Wellness Centre, there will also be a mental health support person. On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, the Options for Sexual Health nurse will be in the Wellness Centre from 12 pm-1pm and the Public Health Nurse will be in the Wellness Centre three Tuesdays a month from 12pm- 1pm. Also, a Mental Health and Substance Use Counsellor will be in attendance four times a month. This is in addition to services already in place at the school.

In terms of student consent for services, I would like to direct you to the attached document called "Consent to Treatment for Youth". Physicians in BC must follow guidelines outlined in the Infants Act for health care for youth under 19 years of age. In short, all students will have access to services provided by the Wellness Centre.

If you have any questions regarding the Wellness Centre or services that will be provided, feel free to contact me at 250-836-2831.

Regards,

Mark Marino  
Principal

## **Consent to Treatment for Youth**

Physicians in BC must follow guidelines outlined in the Infants Act for health care for youth under 19 years of age.

### **Summary of guidelines:**

Youth under age 19 may consent to a medical treatment on their own as long as:

1. the benefits and risks of the treatment have been explained to the youth
2. the health care provider is confident that the youth understands the risks and benefits
3. the health care provider has made a reasonable effort to conclude that the health care is in the best interest of the youth

At the Wellness Centre we encourage youth to include their parents or guardians in their health care. We welcome the presence of any parent or guardian in appointments at the clinic as long as the youth provides consent.

### **For more information:**

HealthLink BC summary: <https://www.healthlinkbc.ca/healthlinkbc-files/infants-act-mature-minor-consent-and-immunization>

Link to Infants Act:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96223\\_01](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96223_01)

### **Duty to Report:**

There are some situations where confidentiality between a health care provider and a patient under age 19 can be broken and the health care provider is required by law to report the situation the Ministry of Children and Family Development in BC.

These include situations where the health care provider has reason to believe that the child or youth under 19 years of age has been or is likely to be abused or neglected.

Summary of rules about reporting child abuse in BC:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/public-safety/protecting-children/reporting-child-abuse>

Link to the BC Child Family and Community Service Act:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96046\\_01#part3](http://www.bclaws.ca/civix/document/id/complete/statreg/96046_01#part3)

## **Confidentiality**

Generally the personal health information of a patient is kept secure and private and anything said by a patient cannot be repeated or shared, even to a parent or guardian, without the consent of the patient.

Confidentiality between a health care provider and a patient can be broken in the following situations:

1. If the patient has a communicable disease such as some sexually transmitted infections, the physician may be required to report this to the local health authority
2. If the patient poses an imminent risk of harm to self or others
3. If the patient is under the age of 19 and shares information that is within the "Duty to Report" scope as outlined above.

**If parents or youth have any further questions or concerns about confidentiality in the Wellness Centre and/or Duty to Report, please contact us**

**250-833-6100 or email [info@sassullivanwellness.com](mailto:info@sassullivanwellness.com)**