

Navigating the Current Climate: Having a Preparedness Plan

Everyone deserves access to health care, regardless of immigration status

We hope that you never have to encounter immigration officials (ICE) in your school or school-based health center. It's important to have a plan and be prepared if ICE is found on school premises so that you can protect the rights of undocumented students access to health care.

Respond to Student and Patient Fears

- Create sample talking points on how to respond to fears around accessing health services
- Ask which language students prefer to use and provide interpretation and resources in that language
- Provide empathetic care and link students to community resources
- Refrain from using the terms "illegal", "DREAMer", and "DACA kid"
- Respect intersecting identities of immigrants, including race, sexual orientation, gender, and ability
- Clarify that student and patient information will not be shared
- Provide Know Your Rights resources

Train SBHC Staff & School Personnel

- Know what protections are available to immigrant students and patients
- Understand the difference between a judicial and administrative warrant
- Understand the difference between open and private spaces
- Make clear who is welcome in your facility beyond the front desk
- Inform other school personnel of preparedness plan, including front desk and main school entrance personnel (before accessing SBHC or wellness center) who are responsible for signing in visitors

Mark Your Safe Space

- Consider adding a notice that law enforcement should check-in and identify themselves as law enforcement
- Post notices and posters indicating facility is a welcoming and safe space
- Make sure your clinic spaces are private

Get Additional Support

- Develop a relationship with local immigration attorneys
- Have a list of local community immigration organizations that could rapidly assist if needed

Learn more about immigration laws

- Immigration Legal Resource Center (ILRC): https://www.ilrc.org/community-resources
- National Immigration Law Center: http://www.nilc.org/
- Centro de Ayuda Legal Para Inmigrantes: http://cali-immigrations.yolasite.com/contact-us.php