

University Hospital, Newark Public Schools Agree To Long-Term Partnership



Newark Public Schools Superintendent Roger León said the new partnership will benefit Newark as a whole.

University Hospital (UH) and the Newark Public Schools (NPS) have launched a long-term partnership to address the health of students and their families, which will include medical screenings, health education, workshops, smoking cessation classes and insurance enrollment.

The new venture kicked off at an event on Aug. 29 at the Rafael Hernandez School with Newark Mayor Ras Baraka, Newark Public Schools Superintendent Roger León and officials from University Hospital.

“Good health, wellness and public safety require that health care providers form meaningful, long-lasting relationships with the communities they serve,” said Baraka. “The new partnership between University Hospital and Newark Public

Schools is a step in the right direction.”

León said, “Schools are much more than just places of learning because they serve as community hubs where teachers and families can work together to create a better environment for our children. Partnering with University Hospital to expand health education and access to medical services is not only good for the 55,000+ students attending Newark’s schools — it’s good for Newark as a whole.”

During the August event, school nurses and security personnel began receiving training in emergency bleeding controls from UH staff. The training program, part of a national initiative known as “Stop the Bleed,” will eventually prepare nearly 5,000 NPS employees in emergency bleeding response.

University Hospital is the region’s only Level 1 Trauma Center, and to date the only New Jersey hospital to offer a training program of this kind. Dr. Adam Fox, a committee member on the Stop the Bleed Board and a surgeon in the trauma division at University Hospital, led the first training session.

In support of this effort, The Foundation for University Hospital is donating more than \$30,000 to cover the cost of the training and to purchase nearly 550 bleeding control kits that will be distributed to each of Newark’s 66 public schools. The bleeding control kits contain tourniquets, pressure dressing, hemostatic agents, chest shields, gloves and scissors, and can treat up to four patients each, depending on the severity of the wounds.

The Stop the Bleed campaign is funded by grants from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the New Jersey Department of Health. Stop the Bleed is designed to equip bystanders with the skills needed to assist wounded individuals in the critical period before medical help arrives. According to research conducted by the National Health Service in the United Kingdom, around 40 percent of trauma-related deaths result from uncontrolled bleeding and hemorrhaging as victims await medical attention.



Newark Mayor Ras Baraka called the new partnership ‘a step in the right direction.’

University Hospital President and CEO John N. Kastanis said the hospital and its foundation were “extremely proud of this partnership with the Newark Public Schools. We believe our duty as health care providers extends beyond the walls of the hospital and necessitates a greater presence in the Newark community. Ensuring the health and safety of Newark’s students will help to develop a culture of health in the city.”

The Stop the Bleed program was created in the aftermath of the Sandy Hook school shootings in 2012 to reduce preventable deaths from bleeding. University Hospital and the New Jersey Trauma Center have been at the forefront of the program, offering training to law enforcement, first responders and some lay providers.

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The Community Training Center team from University Hospital provided training for teachers and security personnel.



Dr. Adam Fox explained the ‘Stop the Bleed’ program to school officials.

“There’s a recognition that the first people on the scene at an intentional mass casualty event is actually not a cop, it’s not EMS, it’s just you and me,” Fox said. “If we don’t provide them with the tools to stop the bleeding, which is a preventable cause of death, then people are going to die needlessly.”