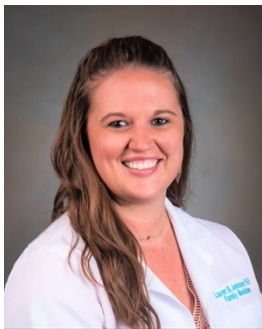


McLeod Health

School-Based TeleHealth Program

The McLeod School-Based Telehealth Program is pleased to partner with several schools within Florence 1 Schools and Florence School District 2. This program, with authorized parental/guardian consent, allows the patient to see a provider without leaving school. Offering on demand non-emergency medical visits that are private and secure, patients receive the same care that they would receive at their doctor's office. Using high-definition cameras and state-of-the-art equipment with attached peripheral devices, a full examination is possible. Parents can join the visit by requesting an email/text link with the appointment time and video connection instructions. This program is available to both students and staff of the school. Rapid testing is also available with our program (i.e influenza, strep, urinalysis). Depending on the provider's assessment, prescription medications can be sent to the pharmacy of choice. There are no up-front costs, and each visit is billed to insurance just as any doctor's office visit would be. A summary of each visit is sent to the patient's primary care physician, if applicable.



Lauren Johnson, FNP-BC, is the designated virtual health provider for the McLeod School-Based Telehealth Program. "I am happy to provide care to the students and staff for those schools currently partnered with our program. Telehealth provides many benefits including reduced time away from class, reduced time and travel cost for the parent, and immediate evaluation and treatment. Telehealth is convenient and eliminates barriers that often restrict prompt medical evaluation. I am grateful to serve and provide evidence-based, high quality and effective care for my patients."



Marie Hardee, a Registered Nurse with Hannah-Pamplico High School, says, "Our students and staff have benefited greatly from this program. Students and staff who have utilized telehealth are diagnosed sooner and get better quicker, thus reducing the number of days absent. Parents can stay at work and don't have to worry about leaving their job to sit in a doctor's office. I believe the virtual care program is going to become heavily utilized in all facets of healthcare. I am excited that our small school and community can offer such innovative and advanced care."



Melynda Wearne, RN, with Wallace Gregg Elementary School, explains, "The telehealth program has opened a new window of opportunity for school wellness. Instead of a reactive model, this program allows our school and community to partner with McLeod Health to provide proactive medical treatment. It allows students and staff to receive care in a timely manner while removing barriers and limitations that often are associated with a more rural community. I see the struggles in our community and McLeod TeleHealth has given me the necessary tools to expand medical care for our students and staff. I can't wait to witness other opportunities this program will provide in the future."