The Decker Student Health Services Center is accredited by the Accreditation Association for Ambulatory Health Care (AAAHC) and provides the following services to all registered students:

- Medical care, by physicians, a psychiatrist, nurse practitioners and nurses for acute medical illness or injury, primary care, chronic care and psychiatric treatment and consultation
- Sexual health care including contraception
- Travel medicine
- Administration of vaccines
- HIV testing
- Self-care information center
- Health education — educational programming, personal consultation, prevention, peer internship course
- Laboratory services (contracted service)
- Limited medication and medical supplies given at time of visit

Office visits are prepaid by the student health fee, as are some medications and vaccinations required for school (MMR and PPD). Fees will be charged for other vaccines, injections and laboratory testing.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All student health records are confidential; no information can be released to anyone, including parents or legal guardians, without the student signing a release, available at health.binghamton.edu/forms.html. This form specifies to whom and about what illnesses or injury information may be released. Exceptions may be made in the case of a legally executed subpoena, according to public health regulations or in the event of a life-threatening situation.

The Decker Student Health Services Center offers students two options for seeing a clinician:

WALK-IN WITHOUT AN APPOINTMENT

Walk-in hours offer diagnosis and treatment of common illness and minor injuries. Walk-in care is provided from 8 to 11 a.m. Monday through Friday, and students are taken on a first-come, first-served basis.

MAKE AN APPOINTMENT

Afternoon appointments are available for all health care needs including gynecological exams, birth control, routine STI testing, primary care and chronic care. Nurse appointments are available for immunizations, influenza vaccination and other appropriate nurse visits. Appointments are offered from 1 to 4 p.m., and same-day appointments are frequently available. By making an appointment, you’ll reduce your wait time and get an appointment time that’s convenient for you. Appointments are made either by going to our online student portal, signing in with your PODS username and password, and choosing “Appointment” from the menu bar at top, or by calling us at 607-777-2221 from 8 a.m. to noon or 1 to 4 p.m.

AFTER-HOURS CARE

For emergencies, Harpur’s Ferry ambulance service is available. Call 607-777-3333 or 911 from a campus telephone. This service is free to Binghamton University students. Three hospital emergency rooms are nearby, all within three to five miles of campus.

There are also several walk-in clinics with evening and weekend hours close to campus. Information regarding these locations is available on our website, on our after-hours telephone message, and in print in the vestibule of the Decker Student Health Services Center building.
HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education provides Binghamton University students with the tools and information needed to maintain good health. To accomplish this, we:

- Collaborate on various health awareness events and campaigns, such as the importance of getting flu shots, World AIDS Day, Clothesline Project, interpersonal violence prevention and stress-free finals events.
- Offer a unique street outreach, four-credit peer education internship program (REACH), or Real Education About College Health, where students deliver wellness messages through short, focused conversations with fellow students at dorm storms, health fairs and campus-wide educational events.
- Facilitate workshops on a wide range of health promotion and prevention topics on and off campus, and offer materials to student leaders planning their own workshops.
- Provide individual counseling, consultation and referral to students who have concerns about sexual health, alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, relationship issues, nutrition, stress management and more.

Health education services are available to all registered students free of charge. All discussions with health education staff are private.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUG PROGRAMS

The Office of Alcohol and Other Drug Programs and Services provides support to the Binghamton University community, centered on the topic of substance use and abuse. It is the goal of this office to support students and their families in successfully facing the challenges that this topic can often present.

The office works to fulfill this goal by providing a number of services including: private and/or small group brief intervention, substance education programming, and support and consultation. While students are welcome to schedule their own appointments, the office also serves as a referral resource for students identified by the University as someone who may potentially benefit from focused harm reduction work. Additionally, the office collaborates with student and community groups to promote safe choices, and the reduction of risk regarding substance use.

REQUIRED FORMS FOR NEW STUDENTS

Health information for students is submitted online via the Student Health Portal at myhealth.binghamton.edu. New York State Public Health Law requires students to complete a Meningitis Acknowledgement Statement indicating knowledge of the meningitis vaccine and their decision to receive it or not. The law also requires documentation of immunity to measles, mumps and rubella. Students must complete a medical history form and submit their immunization dates online through the Student Health Portal. On the portal homepage, in the Education section, is a link to “New Student Instructions for Entering Immunization and Health Information.” Afterwards, students will need to submit official documentation of their immunizations to the Decker Student Health Services Center. Course registration, campus housing and eligibility for financial aid will all be adversely affected if health requirements are not met. Parents or guardians are asked to fill out the Under 18 Consent for Emergency/Medical Treatment form if their student is less than 18 years old. This form is available on the Student Health Portal.

STUDENT INSURANCE

Each semester, as part of tuition, all registered students pay a student health fee that supports Decker Student Health Services Center programs and services. Because the fee is pre-paid, you will not be charged for office visits to the Decker Student Health Services Center, or for many medications and other services. The student health fee does not cover off-campus care, which is why health insurance is so important.

Health insurance is mandatory for all domestic undergraduate students and all international students, undergraduate and graduate. All domestic undergraduate students (full- and part-time) are automatically enrolled in and billed for an optional University sponsored student health insurance plan, unless they waive this plan through the Office of Student Accounts. Before the optional plan is waived, it is important to verify that the alternate coverage can be used for outpatient services and specialist referrals in the Binghamton area.

International students have their own plan through the Office of International Student and Scholar Services. Funded graduate students (RAs, GAs and TAs) may be eligible for health insurance through the University or through the Research Foundation, depending on the source of the funding for their position. Unfunded graduate students are eligible for the same health insurance as domestic undergraduate students. Those students should contact the Office of Student Accounts to enroll. Students are reminded of the importance of carrying their insurance cards. A photograph of the card in their cell phone also works in most cases.

CONTACTS

The Decker Student Health Services Center
Phone: 607-777-2221 Fax: 607-777-2881
E-mail: health.services@binghamton.edu

Michael Leonard, MD
Medical Director
Phone: 607-777-2221
Fax: 607-777-2881
leonard@binghamton.edu

Garrett Fitzgerald
Alcohol and Other Drug Programs
Phone: 607-777-3088
gfitzger@binghamton.edu

Bridget McCane-Saunders
Associate Director for Health Education
Phone: 607-777-2254
Fax: 607-777-2881
bmccane@binghamton.edu

Peggy Smith, DNP
Coordinator of Clinical Services
Phone: 607-777-2221 Fax: 607-777-2881
pasmith@binghamton.edu