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**Avoid Long Waits by Knowing Where to go for Quality Health Care**

*Walk-In Clinics Can Handle Many Urgent Injuries and Illnesses Without ER Wait, Cost*

(Fort Myers, Fla. Feb. 5, 2019) The roads are getting crowded and finding a spot at the beach is near impossible. It can only mean one thing: season has come to Southwest Florida. This influx of seasonal visitors means an increase in urgent medical needs and it's important for everyone – residents and seasonal visitors – to know where to go for immediate, high-quality care.

Patients can seek treatment for most common ailments at an urgent care center without visiting the emergency room. Many people think the ER is the best place to go when they suffer a minor injury or come down with the flu, but there are often better options. ERs may have long wait times for nonlife-threatening conditions because doctors there treat the most critically ill patients first. For minor injuries and nonlife-threatening illnesses patients can avoid long waits and expensive hospital bills by instead visiting an urgent care center.

Urgent care centers provide easy access to skilled physicians and nurses for a wide range of non-emergency injuries or illnesses. Walk-in clinics are ideal for sprains, strains, rashes, cuts, cold and flu, vehicle and work-related injuries and sports physicals. Many locations also have X-ray capabilities for fractures and broken bones (not protruding through the skin).

“Urgent care clinics are a great option for people who don’t have a primary care physician, and an easy alternative to using the emergency department for nonlife-threatening medical issues - especially during season,” said Scott Kashman, Lee Health chief acute care officer. “They provide easy access to expert medical care at a much lower cost.”

Walk in clinics are appropriate when:

- You have a nonlife-threatening medical emergency
- You're unable to make an appointment with your primary care doctor
- You don't have a primary care physician

No appointment is necessary.

By knowing the best place to go for your medical care, you can get in and out of the doctor's office faster while helping to keep ER wait times down for those with critical emergencies. If you have a life-threatening illness or injury, remember to always call 911 to seek immediate medical attention.

Lee Health offers four walk-in clinics. Convenient Care locations include:

- 16230 Summerlin Road, Fort Myers - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily
- 4771 S. Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily
- 13340 Metro Parkway, Fort Myers – 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily
- 1682 NE Pine Island Road, Cape Coral - 7 a.m.-7 p.m. daily

Kids Urgent Care, located in the Golisano | Nicklaus Children’s Health Center, 3361 Pine Ridge Road, Naples, is open from 11 a.m. –11 p.m. daily.

For more information, visit [www.LeeHealth.org](http://www.LeeHealth.org), or call 239-481-4111.

### **About Lee Health**

*Since the opening of the first hospital in 1916, Lee Health has been a health care leader in Southwest Florida, constantly evolving to meet the needs of the community. A non-profit, integrated health care services organization, Lee Health is committed to the well-being of every individual served, focused on healthy living and maintaining good health. Staffed by caring people, inspiring health, services are conveniently located throughout the community in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals, outpatient centers, walk-in medical centers, primary care and specialty physician practices and other services across the continuum of care. Formerly known as Lee Memorial Health System, the organization began its second century of service with a new name in 2016. Learn more at [www.LeeHealth.org](http://www.LeeHealth.org).*