

Newark Public Schools, University Hospital unveil partnership

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Superintendent Roger Leon greeted the nurses at the start of the training sessions, which were held at Rafael Hernandez School.



550 Stop the Bleed Kits donated by The Foundation for University Hospital

Newark Public Schools and **University Hospital** announced Wednesday the kickoff of a long-term partnership that aims to expand access to health education and services for Newark students and families.

The partnership began with University Hospital's Community Training Center leading a Stop the Bleed emergency response training for approximately 150 Newark Public School nurses. The program aims to eventually train nearly 5,000 Newark Public School employees.

Additionally, The Foundation for University Hospital has agreed to purchase nearly 550 bleeding control kits to be distributed to all public schools in the district.

"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," Newark Public Schools Superintendent Roger Leon said of the pairing.

"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."

TAP into Newark

Newark School Nurses Receive Trauma Training from University Hospital

By REBECCA PANICO, August 29, 2018 at 5:45 PM

NEWARK, NJ - It hasn't always been scraped knees and bruises for Bonegal Spearman during her 24 years as a nurse in the Newark school district.

She once needed to stop a student from excessively bleeding, but didn't have a tourniquet. So Spearman, who currently works as a nurse at Arts High School, had to make do with using a blood pressure cuff instead.

"It worked, but probably not as well," Spearman said, adding that the person did survive.

The spate of school shootings across the country are in the back of her mind too. "We have the drills, so they are very real. Twenty-four years ago, I didn't think of that. Today, it's very real."

With a partnership between University Hospital and Newark Public Schools, she and other nurses throughout the district will now have better access to simple life-saving tools.

The Foundation for University Hospital donated about \$30,000 to purchase 550 bleeding control kits for Newark's 66 public schools. The kits included gauze, tourniquets, sheers and gloves.

School nurses and security personnel were also shown how to properly use the tourniquets and other equipment through workshops provided by University Hospital emergency medical service members from and officials.

Dr. Adam Fox, a [Stop the Bleed](#) committee member and surgeon in University Hospital's trauma division, gave about 100 nurses a presentation about best practices before they got a hands-on approach with dummies.

"The Stop the Bleed campaign was started by the Committee on Trauma from the American College of Surgeons in response to the unfortunate incidents that we've had over the years as it relates to active shooter events," Fox said to the nurses. "How can we potentially save people's lives before the EMS gets there?"

Superintendent Roger Leon also greeted the nurses at the start of the training sessions, which were held at Rafael Hernandez School today.



University Hospital trauma division surgeon Dr. Adam Fox gave a presentation to Newark school nurses on best practices for tourniquets at Rafael Hernandez School. ... Credits: Rebecca Panico

“We know that we have not been in a situation where we have had an active shooter in our schools,” Leon said. “But we've overcome very many close instances. Too many, I have to say. We will be better. We will be better because of this type of training.”

Newark Mayor Ras Baraka also joined Leon at the event. He called school nurses "our first responders," who may have already worked with some students who have experienced emotional or physical trauma.

"Which means that you need more training, more opportunities, more skills because you're required to respond to more - to deal with more - and circumstances that probably no other nurses have to deal with in the State of New Jersey.

University Hospital's program will eventually include medical screenings, health education, workshops, smoking cessation classes and insurance enrollment for Newark families.

Newark school nurses and security personnel received tourniquet training from University Hospital at Rafael Hernandez School.



Newark Mayor Ras Baraka (R) and University Hospital, Chief Nursing Officer, Carl Kirton (L), speak to school nurses and security personnel at a University Hospital training program held at Rafael Hernandez School, Newark.

Credits: Rebecca Panico

