

Dear patients and community members,

Starting October 1st, we will no longer be providing services at the sexual and reproductive health clinics. The clinics will be open for all services through September 13th and limited services through September 30th.

Please call the office at 541-322-7499, if you would like to schedule an appointment, want help finding other options for sexual and reproductive health services in the community, or need assistance transferring your records.

Deschutes County Health Services (DCHS) is shifting focus from providing direct sexual health services to ensuring quality and sustainable access in our community.

Why?

- DCHS has experienced a significant and sustained decrease in clients using our sexual and reproductive health clinics over the past decade. This drop in the need for our services is due to positive developments in the community, including:
 - **Increased Community Access and Comprehensive Care:** Multiple clinics and healthcare providers in the community are providing comprehensive clinical services, including sexual and reproductive services.
 - **OHP expansion:** Over the past several years OHP has expanded to include coverage to more individuals and families than ever before.
 - **Longer-Lasting Birth Control and Changes to Screening Recommendations:** Advances in birth control, such as long-acting reversible contraceptives (IUDs, Nexplanon, and Depo), and decreased frequency in cervical cancer screening have reduced the need for annual clinic visits.
- Decreased office visits and the complexity of maintaining small clinics is no longer financially sustainable. Other counties in Oregon are experiencing similar trends and have also transitioned away from providing direct sexual and reproductive health clinical services for all the reasons listed above.

We know that many of you have been coming to the clinics for years. Some may have only been in once or twice. We are, and will continue to be, here to help you navigate to other clinics where you can receive the care you need.

It has been our true honor over these past decades to be a safe and accessible landing place for all community members who needed us. We feel deeply privileged to have cared for you.

The Clinical Services Team of Deschutes County Health Services