



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SNIFFLES, SNEEZES, AND RASHES

Family Tree Clinic Now Offering Minor Illness Care

SAINT PAUL, MN, SEPTEMBER 22, 2014 – Minnesota is a healthy state. Except for those who have less money, are a person of color, LGBTQ identified, or under or uninsured. Then it's a different story – one of worse health outcomes.

Family Tree Clinic is working to change that. In addition to the excellent reproductive and sexual health care we already provide, we are now offering Minor Illness Care to better meet the needs of the people we serve. Minor Illness Care services include treatment for upper respiratory infections (bronchitis, flu, strep throat, etc.), skin conditions (rashes, acne, eczema, etc.), health education and coaching (smoking cessation, epi-pens/allergy education, etc.), procedures (ear wax and suture removal), expanded immunizations and health screenings.

“Low income, under and uninsured people do not access routine health care – usually due to cost. Minor illness can turn into a major illness when things are not addressed. We know that we're the only place of health care for over 60% of our patients. By providing a safe and excellent place to go when people have a cold, cough, STI or need birth control is exactly how we're going to meet their needs,” said Family Tree Clinic executive director, Alissa Light.

A soft rollout of the new services started in early August. During the four week soft rollout, 41% were new patients and 53% of the patients visiting Family Tree Clinic specifically for Minor Illness Care identified as LGBTQ.

About Family Tree Clinic

Family Tree Clinic is a nonprofit community clinic that provides sexual and reproductive health services, as well as minor illness care. Besides our clinic services, we provide community education and operate the MN Family Planning + STD Hotline. Via all of our programming we serve over 18,000 people each year. During the 40 plus years our doors have been open, we've never turned a patient away if they couldn't pay. And we never will.

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