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MUSC Primary Health Clinic Coming to Wagener and Eastern Aiken County

(May 26, 2026) After more than two years of planning, design work, and regulatory preparation, a new mobile health clinic is set to launch in Wagener as part of a pilot program that could serve as a model for underserved communities across South Carolina.

The Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC Health) is expected to publicly debut its specially equipped mobile primary care unit on June 15th. In the weeks leading up to the debut, the unit will be on-site one day a week as part of a soft-launch preparation. The unit, customized by Vanna Mobile Medical, is handicapped accessible and includes a separate exam room. It is designed to bring the same care and services offered at traditional medical practices into rural communities.

Rep. Bill Taylor began discussions with MUSC Health in January 2024 as the Town of Wagener's medical clinic was closing, leaving eastern Aiken County without local healthcare services.

"Since the Wagener clinic closed, the Wagener-Salley-Perry area and all of eastern Aiken County have been a medical desert," Taylor said. "That clinic served about 3,000 patients, and its closure forced residents to travel to Aiken or Lexington for care. I'm thrilled that MUSC Health is bringing trusted healthcare services back to this rural community."

MUSC Health leaders say the initiative represents far more than a traditional "clinic on wheels."

"This is a completely new care-delivery model," said Patrick Cawley, M.D., Chief Executive Officer of MUSC Health. "The Wagener site is being launched as a pilot and will be continuously improved, with the potential to serve as a care model for expanding access in other rural communities."

Dr. Cawley said the mobile health clinic is designed to improve access to healthcare by allowing patients to receive medical services closer to home and outside the traditional hospital setting. This unit provides primary care but does not serve as an alternative to hospital services such as emergency care or imaging.

Wagener-Salley High School hosts the unit where the team has begun seeing patients every Wednesday, with plans to expand to three days per week in the coming months.

School administrators strongly support the project and recently established a dedicated student health room on campus. The student health room is not connected to this project. Patients will not enter the school itself, even though the campus parking lot will serve as the primary operational site.

Community response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive, according to MUSC Health officials, who said enthusiasm has spread quickly through word of mouth and social media. Community leaders believe the convenience of local healthcare access, combined with MUSC Health's name and reputation, will help build strong patient participation.

Contingency plans are being finalized in case the vehicle becomes temporarily inoperable. In that case, services would likely shift to the community room at the local library, with patients notified through signage and phone calls.

Initial funding will allow the clinic to launch on a three-day-per-week schedule.

"We're looking at this over the course of years, not just months," Dr. Cawley said. "Our goal is long-term sustainability and replication."

If successful, the Wagener pilot program could serve as a blueprint for expanding mobile healthcare access in underserved rural communities throughout South Carolina.

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