



In these uncertain times, fear, lack of insurance, or loss of a job should not keep you from taking care of your healthcare needs. Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc. has a mission to “Improve the Health of our Communities,” and that is what we do every day. As a non-profit, charitable organization that provides medical, dental, optometry, behavioral health, podiatry, and pharmacy services, we can assist members of the community, whether insured or not, with a fee scale that is based on family size and income.

We also want to assure our patients that it is safe to come into any of our clinics. Suncoast has always made cleaning and sanitizing a top priority in order to ensure the safety of our patients and staff. Now we are making some high-tech additions to our clinics that will take patient safety to a higher level.

TeleVisit options when appropriate, social distancing, daily sanitizing, and temperature checks at the door are some of the methods that Suncoast has been using to keep our patients as safe as possible. In the continuing battle to keep our clinics germ and virus-free, Suncoast recently made an investment in new technology that will ensure a higher level of protection for our patients and staff alike.

One new defense we are using in the battle against air contaminants is air ionization. Ionizers have recently been installed on the air handlers in all Suncoast clinics. Ionizers use negatively charged ions to help reduce the amount of germs, viruses, mold, and dust in the air. By adding this technology to our air filtration system, our air conditioning system will be able to prevent the recirculation of many harmful particles, which means our staff and patients will breathe healthier air.

We are also taking advantage of Ultraviolet (UVC) light waves to sterilize exam rooms and equipment. UVC lighting kills everything, including bacteria, fungi, and viruses. This light produces a wavelength that is absorbed by microorganisms, and very quickly destroys or renders them harmless.

Brad Herremans, CEO at Suncoast, states, “As a Health Center we are committed to improving the health of the communities we serve. That is a commitment I take seriously. I think that investing in this type of technology is what we have to do in order to keep our patients and staff safe.”

Suncoast Community Health Centers, Inc. is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) Federally Qualified Health Center. Our clinics are located in Plant City, Dover, Lakeland, Brandon, Palm River, Ruskin and Wimauma. Contact us at 813-653-6100 to make an appointment, or visit our website at [www.suncoast-chc.org](http://www.suncoast-chc.org) for more information.