

Salud opens children's clinics at five Watsonville schools

WATSONVILLE -- Janet Manzano took her son David Rojas, 5, to school Friday to get vaccinated.

She was one of several parents taking advantage of the opening day of a clinic at Freedom Elementary School to get their children protection against the H1N1 flu.

"Yes, it's good," Manzano said of new medical services provided at the school by Salud Para La Gente. "In case he gets sick at school, he can see the doctor."

The clinic at Freedom is one of five Salud is establishing at Watsonville schools this year in partnership with the Pajaro Valley Unified School District. The clinics, intended to improve access to health care among low-income families, run one day a week at each of the five schools.

Salud also continues to operate clinics Mondays through Fridays at Cesar Chavez and Pajaro middle schools.

Salud provides the medical and dental staff and equipment. The school district supplies the space.

The clinics offer parents convenience, said Dr. Cory Parello, a pediatrician.

"When the kids get out of class, parents don't have to take them somewhere else," he said.

Services include exams, sports physicals, treatment of minor injuries and illnesses, vision screenings and dental exams and treatment. Salud also will provide health and nutrition education.