

# Mobile Vision Clinic Event

PLANNING GUIDE: Version 4/5/2022 By: Alan Pearson OD PHD [pearson@nviglobal.org](mailto:pearson@nviglobal.org)

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## OVERVIEW

The EYE See Clinic mobile unit is a converted travel trailer with a fully equipped eye exam system. We can perform basic vision exams, fit eyeglasses, and perform more detailed Functional Vision Evaluations for issues that impact learning, development, activities of daily living, or work.



Only 40% of students who do not pass a school based vision screening actually follow through with the referral recommendation and get an eye exam by an eye doctor. There are many reasons this may be the case, but access and affordability to eye exams and eyeglasses is topmost on the list. The intention of our Mobile Vision Clinic events at schools is to improve access to eye care for those students most in need. This includes students

who may not have the necessary transportation to get to a community based provider, students who may not have family systems able to follow through with referral recommendations in a timely manner, or students who do not have the family financial resources to afford eye care. We prioritize eye care to students with such access struggles over providing convenience to students/families who could access and afford services in their local community.

We also provide Functional Vision Evaluations that are more involved than a basic eye exam and provide information to an interdisciplinary team (such as an IEP team) on functional vision issues that impact learning. Often, this kind of specialized service is only available in large metropolitan areas. Our intention is to provide these Functional Vision Evaluation services through our Mobile Vision Clinic in order to provide improved access to such services in more remote communities. This type of service is more broadly available to any student in need.

## PLANNING GUIDE

The following steps are necessary for setting up and operating a Mobile Vision Clinic event.

1. Pencil in the targeted date(s) for the upcoming event. This may involve coordination with surrounding schools/communities that would be part of a multi day trip.
2. By phone or Zoom meet to discuss the projected need and requirements for the upcoming event.
3. Finalize a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the event and responsibilities.
4. Distribute an announcement in the manner agreed upon in step 2 to inform students/families of the upcoming event and start gathering/scheduling students who need to be seen for either an eye exam or Functional Vision Evaluation.
5. The school would gather the necessary permission consent forms from parents for their student(s) to participate in the event and share necessary demographic and contact information with EYE See Clinic needed to provide the services.
6. Establish a secure portal between the school and EYE See Clinic to share the permission forms gathered from parents with EYE See Clinic to confirm eligibility for services and plan scheduling.
7. Complete pre trip meetings by phone or Zoom as necessary.
8. Coordinate where the Mobile Vision Clinic travel trailer will be parked on school grounds in order to provide services. The travel trailer is 26 feet long and is maneuvered with a 20 foot pickup truck. We will carry up to 300 feet of extension cord to plug into an electrical outlet. We also have a generator and a battery pack that can operate the unit if we are unable to plug into local electrical.
9. While we will have access to a common mobile phone hotspot carrier for our data needs, we don't always know what coverage will be like in the area. Another option is to access the internet through a school wifi system. We will need to explore what our options are prior to the event.
10. A few days prior to the event, we will organize a tentative schedule/sequence/priority to facilitate seeing all or as many of the students who need services. We will coordinate this with the school to best accommodate student schedules for other events, but also to keep our clinic active and busy, especially if the need for the school is significant.
11. We will prioritize students with known access difficulties, the uninsured, or Medicaid eligible students during the school day. We will also prioritize needed Functional Vision Evaluations during the school day. For families/students having private health insurance plans, we will see them later in the day, or even after school hours when their parents can transport and supervise their student during the exam.

**Who:** We can provide services for patients of any age, however, our mission emphasizes services to children 1 to 18 years old such as children needing basic eye exams or functional evaluations to explore vision issues related to learning or development.

**Our Team:** At minimum our attending team will consist of one optometrist and one staff or adult volunteers (over 18). Additional staff/volunteers attend when available and/or needed.

How: The flow generally follows these steps

**Preplanning:** We establish an appropriate Memorandum of Understanding document with the host of the Mobile Vision Clinic event. We coordinate with the host prior to the trip to determine the best plan for conducting the event.

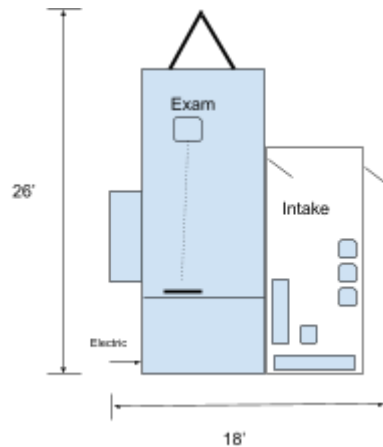
**Event:** The host provides a space that can accommodate the 26 foot trailer in a safe level position. We arrive in the morning and it takes about 1 hour to set up. We can generate our own electricity but it is ideal to be able to plug in. We can see 4-6 patients per hour for basic eye exams (Functional Vision Evaluations take considerably longer and need to be pre-scheduled). If patients need eyeglasses they can choose from a selection that includes the Medicaid eligible frame/lens selection. We pack up and head home or to the next community at the end of the event day. We may stay overnight in the community for multi day events.

**Our Database:** Data is securely stored digitally according to HIPAA standards. Contact information is provided to the patient/family if they have any questions or concerns once we have left the event.



## SITE / PARKING CONSIDERATIONS

We will pull into your school with a pickup truck pulling a travel trailer. The total length is 46 feet. For comparisons, a semi truck/trailer combo is about 70 feet long, so we are significantly shorter, whereas an average car is 15 feet, so we are about three car lengths. An average lined parking space is about 9 feet wide and 18 feet long. We need a level spot. We have to be careful of sharp corners and getting into situations where it is hard to backup. We will detach the truck from the trailer when we arrive to set up, but we cannot maneuver the trailer by hand so the truck has to be able to get in and out to hook up when needed.



The door is on the right side of the trailer. There is a canopy that extends out from the right side about 8 feet, and with side panels this forms a room beside the trailer. In this side room students wait their turn for exams, receive pretesting, and choose eyeglasses. There is also a slide out section on the trailer's left side that comes out a couple of feet. So, we need about 16 to 20 feet width.

**Electricity:** Ideally, we plug into school's electricity with an extension cord. We carry 300' of extensions if necessary. We may need to tape cords to pavement if there is a trip hazard. It is best if cars do not run over the cord. Alternatively, we carry a generator and/or battery systems.

**Internet:** We carry a mobile hotspot system that should provide internet, but in remote locations we may not have coverage. We are designing our systems to operate independent of the internet, but right now we require an internet connection. Thus, we may need to connect to a school's wifi system.

**SETUP PLANNING:** Prior to our arrival we need to know where we are planning to be situated next to your school. If administration or facility management needs to approve, please take care of this before we arrive. We need to know if we will have access to electricity and the internet if needed. I suggest using Google Maps Satellite view of your school, and the Windows App

“Snipping Tool” to take a bird’s eye view of your school and mark where the mobile clinic will be situated. For example, please send us something like the following.....

**Position at the yellow circle, please use your generator for electricity. Wifi is available if needed. This location has been approved by administration.**



#### Instructions:

1. Open Google Maps and switch to Satellite View.
2. Locate your school and zoom in appropriately.
3. Using the Windows search, find the “Snipping Tool” app
4. Click New on the Snipping Tool app and then box out the area of the map you want to copy.
5. Use the marking tools in the Snipping Tool to circle the area for the trailer setup.
6. Go to your email program and start your email to us.
7. Answer the question if electricity is handy or do we need to use a generator
8. Answer the question if Internet is available if we need it.
9. Make a statement that the location has been approved by facilities / administration.
10. Paste the image into your email (The Snipping Tool should have already copied it to your clipboard).
11. Send your email back to us.

We will review and contact you if we have any questions or concerns.

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(425)-269-3169 (leave a message with contact details and I will return your call)



Near Vision Institute: is a non-profit corporation in WA State that was formed in 2021 to facilitate vision screenings and eye exams through our EYE See Clinics, and technology development for remote interventions for learning related vision dysfunctions. More information for each of these divisions can be found at the following websites:

Near Vision Institute: [www.NVI.global](http://www.NVI.global)

EYE See Clinic: [www.EYSeeClinic.org](http://www.EYSeeClinic.org)

NOTE: For people willing to travel to Bothell or Bellevue Washington eye exams, Functional Vision Evaluations, and therapy services are currently available year round.