

BROADCAST- Expanding telemedicine education to increase rural access to care

Anchor Intro: The pandemic made people more comfortable with virtual visits – now OSF HealthCare is partnering with Illinois State University to begin training nurses and Family Medicine graduate students how to use a new platform that takes telemedicine to a new level to provide care in rural communities.

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A jointly-funded Connected Communities partnership is behind research to develop lessons, including simulations with trained actors, to help future nurses and doctors conduct exams using devices attached to a telemedicine platform. The portable system could be used at rural community centers or homeless shelters ...

SOT-Susie Watkins, Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University

“This would help us provide some care in a community like that where they don't otherwise have access to health care, and that could potentially avoid them having to use the emergency room for things like ear infections and strep throat.” (:17)

That’s Susie Watkins of ISU’s Mennonite College of Nursing who says one-third of older residents have two or more chronic conditions that could be better managed with more frequent check-ups.