

July 6, 2011

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## Get school shots updated now before school year begins

With local schools scheduled to resume on Monday, Aug. 22, Sarasota County public health and school officials remind parents to get their child’s immunizations updated now. Parents of children who will be entering schools in Sarasota County for the first time must provide the school office with a completed Florida Certification of Immunization (DH 680).

Available through your health care provider, this is the official record showing that your school-age children have had all the immunizations needed for their grade level. The DH 680 form may be printed on white paper and is still valid as long as it contains the state of Florida seal.

By the time a child starts school, he/she should have already had a number of required immunizations. However, proof of updates, boosters and series completion is required to enter Sarasota County Schools for the first time and to advance to some grade levels.

Listed below is the total number of doses of each required vaccine for which proof of immunization is needed.

### FLORIDA IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS FOR SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

2011-2012 School Year	DTP (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis)	Polio	MMR (Measles, Mumps, Rubella)	Varicella	Hepatitis B	Tdap (Tetanus, Diphtheria, Pertussis)
Kindergarten	5	5*	2	2	3	0
Grade 1	5	4	2	2	3	0
Grade 2	5	4	2	2	3	0
Grade 3	5	4	2	2	3	0
Grade 4-6	5	4	2	1	3	0
Grade 7-10	5	4	2	1	3	1**
Grade 11-12	5	4	2	0	3	1**

\* Only 4 doses required if last dose is given after fourth birthday

\*\* Td (Tetanus Diphtheria) only instead of Tdap acceptable for grades 10-12

"Let’s all have a great start to the school year. Compare your child’s immunization record with the immunization requirements and also remember to get the influenza vaccine at the beginning of flu season," said Sarasota County Health Department School Health Supervisor Linda Glover, R.N.

Children entering seventh grade in August must have proof they received a tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis booster (Tdap) within the past five years. Parents also should make sure their college-bound teenagers have up-to-date required and recommended vaccines. If your child needs updated immunizations, get them done soon to avoid the long lines in mid-August.

The registrar must be at the school to process the DH 680 forms. While some school staff members work year-round, the majority of Sarasota County School District school registrars will return to work on Wednesday, July 27.

“Bring your student’s DH 680 form to the school as soon as you can so your child’s first day of school will be a positive experience,” says Linda Glover.

Students who do not have the required immunizations will be sent home from public schools on the first day, Monday, Aug. 22. In addition, they will not be able to ride on the bus or participate in sports, band or other extracurricular activities until the school has the DH 680 form showing that they received the required immunizations.

The Sarasota County Health Department, through the federally funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, offers immunizations to eligible children at no cost. No appointment is needed. A parent or legal guardian must be present, and must bring prior shot records. Immunizations for eligible children are available at the following locations and times:

**Sarasota County Health Department**

Adult, Children’s and Travel Immunization Clinic  
2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota  
Monday-Friday (clinic does not close for lunch)  
Monday- Wednesday: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m.  
Thursday: 8 a.m.-6:30 p.m.  
Friday: 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

**North Port Health Center**

6950 Outreach Way, North Port  
Monday-Friday  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 7-11:30 a.m. and 1-5:30 p.m.  
Wednesday: 7-11:30 a.m. and 2-5:30 p.m.

For more information, contact your health care provider or the Sarasota County Health Department’s Office of School Health at 941-927-9000, ext. 32101. For a complete shot schedule, visit the Sarasota School District’s health website, <http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/schoolhealth>.

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