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## **Sarasota County Health Department announces clinic services changes in south county**

Beginning Monday, May 2, there will be a change in the services available at the Sarasota County Health Department's South County Family Health Center at 7820 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice. Adult and children's primary care, women's health (obstetrics and family planning), pharmacy, laboratory, the Vaccines For Children Program (VFC) and adult immunization services will no longer be offered at the south Venice facility as of May 2. However, dental health, the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program and nutrition services will continue to be offered at this location.

"Adult and children's primary care services, women's health, pharmacy, laboratory, the Vaccines For Children Program (VFC) and adult immunizations will be available to our patients at the recently expanded North Port Health Center located at 6950 Outreach Way in North Port. All of these services, with the exception of children's primary care, are also available at the Sarasota County Health Department's Sarasota Health Center located at 2200 Ringling Boulevard in downtown Sarasota," said Barbara Laidlaw, acting administrator for the Sarasota County Health Department. "Children's primary care and immunization services will continue to be available at the Children's Health Center, 1750 17<sup>th</sup> Street in Sarasota."

Also, birth and death certificates (Vital Records) will be relocated to the county's Robert L. Anderson Administration Center, 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice. The Vital Records office will be open to the public starting on Tuesday, May 3.

Plans for relocation and continuation of Healthy Start, the Ryan White CARE (Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency) program that provides case management services, Sarasota Health Care Access, school health and sexually transmitted disease (STD) services in south county are under development. Information on those services will be announced soon.

All staff members, including the adult health and obstetrician and gynecology physicians, pediatrician and nurse practitioner from the Venice clinic site, have been notified of the change in their work location. The majority of the staff members have specialized skills that will allow them to assume roles in a similar capacity at the North Port Health Center. No layoffs are planned.

“While it is never easy to redistribute services, our decision was driven by the need to maintain cost efficiencies,” said Laidlaw. “We are striving to make this transition a smooth one for everyone affected by these changes.”

Medical records for patients at the Venice site will be available upon request. Those with medical records requests, or who have questions about these changes, can call 941-861-3303 or visit the Sarasota County Health Department website at [www.sarasotahealth.org](http://www.sarasotahealth.org).

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