

Feb. 18, 2014



125th Anniversary of Public Health In Florida

Media Availability: Sarasota County honors Dr. Mark Magenheim as its Public Health Hero

SARASOTA COUNTY —The Florida Department of Health In Sarasota County (DOH-Sarasota) will join communities around the state in recognizing the 125th Anniversary of Public Health in Florida on Thursday, Feb. 20. The statewide theme is “Florida Public Health — always improving quality of life.”

Each Florida County has identified a “Public Health Hero.” The Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County will hold a Media Availability with its chosen “Public Health Hero” – Mark J. Magenheim, MD, MPH, who has dedicated his career to public health as a leader, educator, and advocate and proponent for evidence-based public health activities that have been shown to make a profound impact on human health and quality of life. These include access to safer drinking water and foods, better air quality, child and adult immunizations and other preventive measures against infectious diseases, sanitation advances, accident prevention, reduction of tobacco use, enhanced nutrition, and prenatal and infant care as well as health/wellness promotion.

Dr. Magenheim served as the Health Department’s director when HIV/AIDS came to the forefront. He pioneered efforts to reduce the stigma in the early days of the epidemic through education and community engagement. During a visit to Sarasota in 1989, former U.S. Surgeon General, Dr. C. Everett Koop presented Magenheim with the U.S. Surgeon General’s Medallion of Excellence and U.S. Public Health Service Certificate of Appreciation, “For service as a model for the Nation’s Health Officers.”

MEDIA AVAILABILITY

Thursday, Feb. 20; 2-2:15 p.m.

Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County
William L. Little Health & Human Services Center
2200 Ringling Blvd., Second Floor Auditorium, Sarasota

More information: <http://www.sarasotahealth.org/spotlight/florida-public-health-125-years.htm>

SARASOTA COUNTY MEDIA RELATIONS

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MEDIA NOTES:

Following the media availability, Dr. Magenheim's contributions to public health will be recognized. He will then share highlights from his global voyage where he served as a public health instructor as part of the Semester at Sea® program. Media representatives are welcome to stay for those parts of the program.

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