

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

February 26th, 2015

Dear Parents,

The Florida Department of Health In Miami-Dade County and Miami-Dade County Public Schools would like to take the opportunity to inform you about several vaccines available for your adolescent child that are not required for school entry but highly recommended for students in your child's age group. Having your child protected against these diseases could be of benefit in their near future e.g. college or university admission requirements as well as to protect your child from transmitting or becoming infected by virus or diseases.

You should review these recommendations and discuss this with your child's pediatrician to make sure that your child has received these vaccines. If your child does not have a pediatrician or health insurance the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County can provide these vaccines to your child free of charge (through 18 years of age).

Meningococcal vaccine: prevents meningococcal disease caused by bacteria that can infect a person's blood stream or cause a form of meningitis. This disease can be fatal and can leave many survivors with lifelong complications. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends children receive this vaccine at starting at 11 years of age with a booster dose several years later. Many colleges and universities require this vaccine prior to admission.

Two other vaccines that are recommended are Human papillomavirus (HPV) and hepatitis A vaccines. The Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is recommended for persons between the ages of 9-26 years. It consists of three doses of vaccines that should be given within a 6 months period. There are two different HPV vaccines: one vaccine brand is only given to females and protects them from cervical cancer, and the other brand can be given to either females or males it protects females from cervical cancer and both females and males from genital warts. The hepatitis A vaccine protects against the hepatitis A virus that can be transmitted from infected food, water or saliva and can damage your liver.

In addition, Tetanus diphtheria pertussis (Tdap) booster replaces the (Td) vaccine for children entering 7th grade. Effective the 2014/2015 school year all 7th through 12th grade students are required or must have a history of having received the Tdap vaccine.

For more information about vaccines benefits and safety visit the <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/>. If you do not have a pediatrician for your child and would like them to receive vaccine services call the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County to schedule an appointment at 786-845-0550. (Note: Children more than 18 years of age attending Miami-Dade County Public Schools are also eligible for free vaccines at the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County.

Sincerely,

Reynald Jean, MD, MPH

Florida Department of Health

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