

**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 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

Dear Parent,

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County's Immunization Program would like to inform you that most children are due for their booster vaccine by the time they are eleven years of age. They will not be permitted into school in seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) grade without it.

Parents who wait until the summer to take their children for the Back-to-School vaccine requirements will have difficulty scheduling an appointment with their pediatrician. During those months, many private healthcare providers' offices, as well as our own health department clinics, are overcrowded with this back-to-school rush for immunizations. This is especially important for the mandatory requirement for 7<sup>th</sup> grade entry which includes:

- **One tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap)**
- **Second dose of varicella (VZV)**

There are other vaccines recommended for your child which include: meningococcal, human papillomavirus, the second dose of varicella and hepatitis A. Therefore, we are asking you to take your 6<sup>th</sup> grade child to schedule a visit with his/her private healthcare provider or one of the health department clinics as early as possible so that he/she will be prepared before the next school year begins. If your child does not have a pediatrician, the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County offers free immunizations to all children less than 19 years of age. To schedule an appointment call: 786-845-0550. Thank you so much for your support and for keeping Miami-Dade County healthy.

Please remember, if you have another child entering school for the first time the schools will also require his or her immunization records to be current and placed on the proper school forms.

Sincerely,

Reynald Jean, MD, MPH

**Florida Department of Health**

Miami-Dade County  
Epidemiology, Disease Control, and Immunizations Services  
8600 NW 17<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200 Miami, Florida 33126  
PHONE: 305/470-5660 • FAX 305/470-5533

**www.FloridaHealth.gov**  
TWITTER: HealthyFLA  
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth  
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