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School resumes in about 30 days: Get school shots updated now

Sarasota County public health and school officials remind parents to get your 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 form (also known as the blue DH 680)**. This form, which is available through your health care provider, is the official record showing that your school-age children have had all the immunizations needed for their grade level.

2009-10 Florida Immunization Requirements for School Attendance:

Kindergarten and Grades 1 – 6

- 5 DTPs (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough) (DTaP) vaccine
- 4 Polio
- 2 MMRs (2 Measles, 2 Mumps and 2 Rubella)
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Varicella (chicken pox) **for Grades 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6**
- 2 Varicella** (chicken pox) **Kindergarten and Grade 1**

Grades 7 – 12

- 5 DTPs (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough)
- 4 Polio
- 2 MMRs (2 Measles, 2 Mumps and 2 Rubella)
- 3 Hepatitis B
- 1 Tdap** (Tetanus Diphtheria) **(grade 7)**
- 1 Tdap or Td (grades 8-12)
- 1 Varicella (chicken pox) for **Grades 7-8 students only**

"Let's all have a great start to the school year. Compare your child's immunization record with the immunization requirements," said Sarasota County Health Department School Health Supervisor Linda Glover, R.N., M.Ed., Ed.S.

Children entering seventh grade in August must have proof of having received a tetanus/diphtheria booster (Td or Tdap) within the past five years. Parents should also make sure their college-bound teenagers are up-to-date with required and recommended vaccines. If your child needs updated immunizations, get them soon to avoid the long lines in mid-August. Sarasota County School District staff is returning to work on Thursday, July 30. "Bring your student's blue DH 680 form to the school as soon after Thursday, July 30 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, August 24. In addition, they will not be able to ride the bus or participate in sports, band or other extracurricular activities until the school has the DH 680 form showing that the shots were received.

The Sarasota County Health Department, through the federally-funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program, offers free immunizations to children from families who lack health insurance or whose insurance does not pay for immunizations. No appointment is needed. A parent or guardian must be present, and **must bring prior shot records.**

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Back-to-School Immunizations – PAGE TWO

Sarasota County Health Department

Children's Immunization Clinic
2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
Monday through Friday
Please call 941-861-2784 for hours.

South County Family Health Center

South County Resource Center (just north of Manatee Community College)
7820 S. Tamiami Trail, #B2 Venice
Monday through Friday
Please call 941-861-3338 for hours.

For more information, please 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 District's school health website: <http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/schoolhealth>.

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