



# Health and Human Services MEDIA RELEASE



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



March 30, 2016

## High school seniors urged to get no-cost vaccines for college now

*After you graduate and turn 19, the cost rises to more than \$600*

SARASOTA COUNTY, FL — Local public health and school officials urge high school seniors to get their immunizations updated before they graduate and turn 19. The vaccines are available at no cost at the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County’s (DOH-Sarasota) clinics in Sarasota and North Port.

Many colleges and universities, including Florida public universities and colleges, require proof of updated vaccinations for enrollment and/or dormitory-living. Vaccines are only available at no charge through the federally-funded Vaccines for Children (VFC) program while the student is enrolled in high school or younger than age 19. The cost of vaccines for those who are no longer eligible for the VFC program can exceed \$600. By acting now, families can save money, meet college requirements, and avoid the last minute rush in the summer.



The recommended vaccines offer safe and effective protection against the most common and serious forms of bacterial [meningitis](#), [Tetanus](#), [Diphtheria and Pertussis \(whooping cough\)](#) and [Human Papillomavirus \(HPV\)](#). Health officials also encourage college-bound students get the [Hepatitis A](#) vaccine, and the second dose of the [Varicella](#) vaccine which protects against chickenpox. The protection offered through some vaccines wanes over time, so certain vaccines need to be repeated to maintain an adequate level of immunity.

“When young people are current on their vaccines, it reduces the likelihood that they will acquire vaccine-preventable diseases throughout their lifetime. From a public health standpoint, the entire community benefits when there is greater vaccine coverage,” says DOH-Sarasota School Health Supervisor Linda Glover. “In addition, you’ll save hundreds of dollars by getting vaccines now instead of waiting.”

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### **MEDIA NOTES:**

#### **DOH-Sarasota Media Contact:**

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Website: [www.sarasotahealth.org](http://www.sarasotahealth.org)



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No-cost vaccines are available at the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County's (DOH-Sarasota) in Sarasota and North Port to children still in school or under age 19 and whose health insurance plan does not cover vaccines. Families who have insurance covering vaccines are requested to bring their insurance card.

Health officials say early morning hours are usually best for [walk-in immunizations](#) and appointments are also available. Parents must accompany those under age 18. Please bring previous shot record if available. Immunizations are available at these locations (Monday-Friday):

### **William L. Little Health & Human Services Center**

2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota  
Walk-in services begin at 7:30 a.m.  
Call for [hours](#) or to request an appointment  
941-861-2900

### **North Port Health Center**

6950 Outreach Way, North Port  
Call for [hours](#) or to request an appointment  
941-861-3864

For additional details, please call the School Health Office at 941-927-9000, ext. 32101. Parents can also visit [www.sarasotahealth.org](http://www.sarasotahealth.org) or the school district website, [www.sarasotacountyschools.net](http://www.sarasotacountyschools.net).

### **About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health, please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities.  
View the complete policy at [www.scgov.net/ADA/Pages/default.aspx](http://www.scgov.net/ADA/Pages/default.aspx)

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