



Health and Human Services MEDIA RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2015

New high school graduates urged to get no-cost vaccines for college now

After you turn 19, the cost rises to more than \$300

SARASOTA COUNTY, FL — Local public health and school officials urge new high school graduates to get their immunizations updated before they 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 \$300. 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:

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Vaccines can be obtained at your child's pediatrician or primary care provider or at the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County's (DOH-Sarasota) locations in Sarasota or North Port.

Health officials say that early morning hours are usually best for [walk-in immunizations](#) at DOH-Sarasota 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
Walk-in services begin at 7 a.m.
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 or the school district website, www.sarasotacountyschools.net.

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

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