



Jeb Bush
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.
Secretary, Department of Health

PINELLAS COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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School begins soon!
Time for Back-to-School Immunizations

It may be the middle of summer, but the new school year is a few short weeks away. Parents, while you're buying new clothes and school supplies for your kids, visit your doctor or the Pinellas County Health Department to make sure children's vaccinations are up to date.

Vaccinations can keep your children and the children around them healthy. If your children have been immunized, they're less likely to catch many serious illnesses, and that also makes them less likely to spread diseases to others. And if getting your children to the doctor for their shots seems like a hassle, think of the time you'll save if they don't get sick – they'll miss less time from school and you'll miss less time from work. Most importantly, they'll avoid the potentially life-threatening complications and permanent after-effects of some of these diseases.

“Planning early will avoid the last minute rush and crowded waiting rooms,” said Dr. Julia Gill, the Pinellas County Health Department’s immunization program manager. “Parents should contact us or their doctor as soon as possible to make sure they’re fully prepared to start school.”

Immunization requirements for the 2006-2007 school year:

- For students entering *kindergarten, first, second, third, fourth and fifth grades*, the Immunization Record must show that the student has met the minimal state requirements: 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus); 4 Polio; 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella); the Hepatitis B series; and 1 Chickenpox vaccine (or have had Chickenpox).
- For students entering *sixth grade*, the Immunization Record must show that the student has met the minimal state requirements: 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus); 4 Polio; 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella); and the Hepatitis B series.
- For students entering *seventh through twelfth grades*, the Immunization Record must show that the student has met the minimal state requirements: 5 DPT (diphtheria, pertussis, tetanus); 4 Polio; 2 MMR (measles, mumps rubella); the Hepatitis B series; and 1 Td booster (tetanus, diphtheria).

The only acceptable *Immunization Record* is **DOH Form 680**. It should include the student's name, birth date, parent or guardian's name, vaccines and the dates those shots were given, as well as the providing doctor's name and signature. Religious or medical reasons for not having a specific immunization must be listed as well.

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All children, birth to 18, may receive back-to-school vaccinations from any of the Pinellas County Health Department's five health centers (8 a.m. – 5 p.m., M-F) or from their regular healthcare provider. Wherever you take your children for their shots, be sure to have their current Immunization Record along with their Social Security cards or other documentation of their Social Security number if available. Without a current Immunization Record, all immunizations must be repeated. For more information, contact your doctor or the health center nearest you:

St. Petersburg Health Center: 205 Dr. ML King St. North, 824-6900

Pinellas Park Health Center: 6350 76th Ave. North, 547-7780

Largo Health Center: 12420 130th Ave. North, 588-4040

Clearwater Health Center: 310 N Myrtle Ave., 469-5800

Tarpon Springs Health Center: 301 S. Disston Ave., 942-5457

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The mission of the Pinellas County Health Department is to promote, protect and improve the health and safety of our community through public and private partnerships in an environment that respects diversity. www.PinellasHealth.com