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ENSURE YOUR CHILDREN'S IMMUNIZATIONS ARE UP TO DATE



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Tallahassee, Fla.— August is National Immunization Awareness Month and every Floridian can take part by ensuring children are up-to-date with immunizations. Vaccines help children safely develop immunity to infectious diseases such as measles, polio and whooping cough. All parents are encouraged to review their children's immunization records annually to ensure they have all required shots.

"Vaccines provide protection for Florida's children, families and communities against the spread of infectious disease," said State Surgeon General and Secretary of Health Dr. John Armstrong. "I urge all parents in Florida to make sure their children are current with the proper immunizations."

Vaccines help develop immunity to countless infectious diseases by enabling the body to recognize and fight vaccine-preventable diseases. The following vaccines are required for children entering pre-school and grades K-12: diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis (whooping cough), measles, mumps, rubella, polio, varicella (chickenpox) and hepatitis B. Students entering college should check with the health services at their college regarding immunization requirements.

Florida participates in the [Vaccines for Children](#) program, a federally funded immunization program. This valuable program provides vaccines to children 0 through 18 years of age who meet program eligibility, at no cost to the parent/guardian.

Find your local [county health department](#) to attend a back to school immunization clinic.

Visit Florida SHOTS at <http://www.flshots.com/> and learn how to easily track your child's immunization record. Florida SHOTS has many benefits including protection of your records in case of natural disasters.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

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