



## MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION ADMINISTRATOR

### Robert M. Griffin

Welcome to the Fall edition of IMMU-NEWS!

As the summer season comes to an end we welcome the fall season and the cooler temperatures it brings. The 2015–2016 school year is in full swing and many gather for football games and festive fall holidays like Halloween and Thanksgiving. Unfortunately, it also ushers in the flu season. The good news is that the flu is preventable by vaccination. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommends that all persons 6 months of age and older receive the flu vaccination, especially children under 5 years of age, pregnant women, adults 65 years of age and older and those individuals with medical conditions such as asthma or heart disease. Flu season generally peaks in January, but flu can be seen as early as October. Protect yourself and individuals around you by getting your annual flu vaccination now!

In this edition, you will find information on National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) which will be observed December 6–12, 2015. NIVW is a national observance established to promote awareness and prevention of the spread of influenza. For more information on NIVW, please visit [www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/](http://www.cdc.gov/flu/nivw/). In addition, this issue will provide flu-related information and tips for prevention.

The Immunization Section has had several staff changes this quarter. The Florida SHOTS helpdesk had a few employee transitions of note—April Turner and Mamie Dykes have both transitioned from OPS to Career Service status. Congratulations to April and Mamie! The Florida SHOTS helpdesk also has two new staff members. Jenna Hogan and Jennifer Williams have joined the Florida SHOTS helpdesk team as OPS personnel. Welcome aboard Jenna and Jennifer—we look forward to working with both of you!

The Quality Improvement/Clinical Unit welcomes Montique Shepherd, II as a CDC Public Health Advisor. Montique previously worked as a Project Manager for the Maryland Department of Health—Center for Immunizations and holds a Masters degree in Public Health from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU). Welcome to the team Montique—we look forward to working with you!

There have also been a few additions to the Immunization Section Field Staff. Tracy-Ann Valle has joined Area 5 as an Immunization Analyst and Claudine Francois has joined the Area 12/AFIX team as a Health Service Representative. Welcome Tracy-Ann and Claudine—we look forward to working with both of you!

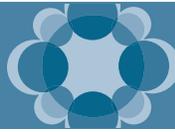
Enjoy this issue of Immu-News and don't forget to get your flu shot!

## In this Issue:

- MESSAGE FROM THE SECTION ADMINISTRATOR
- New Immunization Section Administrator Announced
- South Florida Immunization Workshop
- Immunization Administration Expanded for Pharmacists to Become Yellow Fever Vaccine Provider
- 2016 Florida HPV Immunization Summit
- 8th Annual SW Florida Immunization Workshop
- Moffitt Cancer Center
- Pinellas County
- Flu Season—Get your flu vaccine today!
- Florida SHOTS™: Help Us Mobilize Against Measles
- Current Dates of Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) as of August 14, 2015
- Children and the Flu: FAQs
- WTXL—ABC 27 QUESTIONS CENTER: Getting Ready for Flu and Allergy Season
- Flu Prevention Flyer Showcase



IMMU-NEWS is a publication of the:  
Immunization Section  
Division of Disease Control and Health Protection  
Florida Department of Health



## New Immunization Section Administrator Announced

Robert "Bob" Griffin was officially named the Immunization Section's Administrator. As administrator, Bob oversees the statewide immunization program that is responsible for controlling vaccine-preventable diseases through surveillance, resource management, quality improvement, technical assistance, and the Vaccines for Children (VFC) program.

In March of 2015, Bob was selected as the interim administrator for the Immunization Section, while also managing the section's fiscal and data management processes, including Florida SHOTS development. His career in public health began over twenty years ago. He has served as manager of the statewide VFC program and he was the manager of the hepatitis program in Broward County. Bob earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from American International College in Springfield, Massachusetts. Congratulations to Bob and best of luck in your new role!

## South Florida Immunization Workshop

The Collier and Lee County Immunization Coalitions are joining forces to sponsor the South Florida Immunization Workshop in March 2016 in southern Lee County/Northern Collier County (Fort Myers and Naples). The workshop will take place on a Saturday morning. The emphasis of the workshop will be HPV and meningococcal as well as other recommended adolescent vaccines. Although this workshop is in the early stages of development, keep posted with future publications and announcements for exact dates and times for the workshop as well as electronic registration. Free Nursing Continuing Education Units (CEUs) will be offered.



## Immunization Administration Expanded for Pharmacists to Become Yellow Fever Vaccine Provider

Under new law passed during the 2015 Legislative session and effective July 1, 2015, [HB 279](#) and Section 465.189, Florida Statutes allows properly certified pharmacists to:

- Give all immunizations or vaccines listed in the U.S. CDC Adult Immunization Schedule in effect on February 1, 2015.
- Give all immunizations or vaccines recommended by the U.S. CDC for international travel in effect on July 1, 2015.
- Give any immunizations or vaccines approved by the Florida Board of Pharmacy in response to a state of emergency declared by the governor.

### How to become a yellow fever vaccine provider

Many countries require specific travel immunizations for visitors such as the yellow fever vaccine. Providers interested in administering the yellow fever vaccine will be required to apply for a uniform stamp and yellow fever vaccination certification. The uniform stamp allows the authorized provider to officially sign the traveler's International Certificate of Vaccination (ICV). The ICV records the vaccinations received and the signature validates this record. Yellow fever vaccination certification allows the authorized provider to actually purchase and administer the yellow fever vaccine.

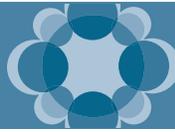
### Who can Apply:

- Licensed Physicians
- Pharmacists with a Valid Immunization Administration Certification

For more information on the Yellow Fever Vaccine Provider certification, visit the DOH-Immunization Section web site: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/yellow-fever-vaccine-provider/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/yellow-fever-vaccine-provider/index.html).

## Standard Abbreviations in This Issue

- ACIP: Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- DTaP: Diphtheria, Tetanus, and acellular Pertussis
- DOH: Florida Department of Health
- Florida SHOTS™: Florida State Health Online Tracking System
- IAC: Immunization Action Coalition
- MMR: Measles, Mumps, and Rubella
- MMRV: Measles, Mumps, Rubella, and Varicella
- Tdap: Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis
- VFC: Vaccines For Children



## 2016 Florida HPV Immunization Summit

Help Florida become HPV Free! According to the CDC, Human Papillomavirus (HPV) has infected approximately 79 million Americans, and newly infects 14 million people each year. To reduce the incidence and mortality rates of HPV-related cancers in the state, the Florida Leading Immunizations Network of Coalitions (LINC) in partnership with Department of Health's Immunization Section, the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), Pinellas PITCH Coalition, and other partners are collaborating in supporting an HPV Campaign. This initiative is dedicated to providing awareness and education to pediatric physicians, medical staff, community health centers, county health department employees, school medical staff, teens and young adults, and parents and community partners across the state of Florida.

A statewide Immunization Summit focusing on Cancer Prevention through HPV Vaccination is being planned in Pinellas County, Florida between January and February of 2016. The HPV Immunization Summit will provide vaccine advocates with updates on HPV-related cancers, address vaccine related concerns, and provide physicians with the opportunity to share best practices for improving adolescent immunization rates, especially HPV vaccination rates in Florida. The event will include presentations from prominent medical physicians, educational seminars, and panel discussions with the opportunity to gain Continuing Medical Education/Continuing Education Units (CME/CEUs) upon completion.

Following the HPV Immunization Summit, there will be additional HPV educational opportunities provided through online webinars along with a list HPV Awareness activities occurring throughout the state. Please stay tuned for upcoming announcements and contact information about the 2016 HPV Immunization Summit.

## 8th Annual SW Florida Immunization Workshop

The Sarasota County Immunization Coalition will be sponsoring the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual SW Florida Immunization Workshop on Thursday, May 19, 2016 at the State College of Florida at Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Presentations will include information on the importance of adolescent vaccines with an emphasis on HPV. Speakers include representatives of CDC, Florida AAP, the HPV Awareness Initiative at the Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, Florida SHOTS, and the Department of Health–Immunization Section. Other presentations will include an update on vaccine preventable disease surveillance and outbreak control activities for Manatee and Sarasota Counties; updated information on Florida SHOTS as well as a presentation on the current vaccine requirements to attend school and child care. Electronic registration for the workshop will become available early in 2016. Free Nursing CEUs will be offered. Watch for future announcements and publications for details! You can also email David Fee at [david.fee@flhealth.gov](mailto:david.fee@flhealth.gov) or Lori Wright at [lori.wright@flhealth.gov](mailto:lori.wright@flhealth.gov) for additional information.

## Moffitt Cancer Center

Partnership to Immunize Teens and Children against HPV (PITCH) at Moffitt Cancer Center in Tampa, FL, led by Dr. Susan



Vadapampil and Dr. Anna Giuliano, is currently collecting data for a survey that was created in order to learn more about the current HPV-related activities that our stakeholders are currently engaging in and the

barriers that are often associated with these activities.

If you or someone you know is currently engaging in HPV-related activities focused on health care providers, patients/parents, communities or health systems, as well as advocacy and policy-related activities, please provide us with your contact information and we will send you our survey to complete. We welcome your participation!

To show appreciation of your time, we will email you a \$5 Target e-gift card for your completed survey. If you are interested in participating in this survey, please contact Paige Lake at [paige.lake@moffitt.org](mailto:paige.lake@moffitt.org) with your email address and we will add your email address to our survey distribution list to ensure that you receive our survey link!

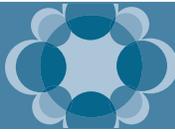
## Pinellas County

The Pinellas Immunization Team for Community Health (PITCH) is actively involved with the planning of the new Statewide HPV Campaign for 2016

(#BeHPVfreeFL), which is scheduled to launch with a 2–3 day Immunization Summit in January 2016 during Cervical Cancer Awareness Month, and continues through April during World Immunization Week with HPV events occurring simultaneously across the state. Webinars, workshops, film screenings, and a media campaign will occur statewide throughout those four months. All FL LINC members are welcome to become involved.



DOH–Pinellas has launched its Fall Flu Campaign with a drive-thru “Flu Boo” clinic on Oct 28. On November 3rd, a flu outreach event will be held at All Children’s Hospital for the families of the sick children. Additionally, an internal “Vaccines 4 Jeans” campaign will be held for staff to reach the goal of 90% employee vaccination. Email [andrea.peaten@flhealth.gov](mailto:andrea.peaten@flhealth.gov) for additional information.



## Flu Season—Get your flu vaccine today!

“Flu season typically peaks between December and February but significant activity can occur as late as May,” says Dr. Anne Schuchat, Director of CDC’s National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases and Assistant Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service. “We are encouraging people who have not yet been vaccinated this season to get vaccinated now.”

For millions of people every season, the flu can mean a fever, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle aches, fatigue, and



miserable days spent in bed. However, you may not realize that more than 200,000 people are hospitalized in the United States from flu complications each year. The flu also can be deadly. Over a period of 30 years, between 1976 and 2006, estimates of yearly flu-associated deaths in the United States range from a low of about 3,000 to a high of about 49,000 people during the most severe season.

However, there is a vaccine that can prevent flu. While vaccine efficacy can vary, the benefits from vaccination are well documented. Studies show that flu vaccination can reduce flu illnesses, doctors’ visits, missed work and school attendance due to flu, as well as prevent flu-related hospitalizations and deaths.

The CDC recommends an annual flu vaccine for everyone 6 months and older. Flu vaccine is available as a shot and as a nasal spray. According to Dr. Schuchat, however, “the most important thing is that you get vaccinated, not necessarily which vaccine you get.” Talk to your doctor or other health care professional about which vaccine is best for you and your family.

Certain people are at high risk for serious flu-related complications, such as pneumonia, which can lead to hospitalization and even death. This includes young children, pregnant women, people 65 and older and those with certain medical conditions, such as asthma, diabetes or heart disease. For those at high risk for

complications, getting the flu vaccine is especially important. It is also important to get the vaccine if you are a caregiver for anyone at high risk, including infants younger than 6 months since they are too young to be vaccinated.

Children 6 months through 8 years of age who are being vaccinated for the first time may need two doses of flu vaccine to be fully protected. If a child has not received his/her first dose, it is recommended for them to be vaccinated as soon as possible. For children who are 6 months through 8 years of age and who have been vaccinated with one dose, parents should check with the child’s doctor to see if a second dose is needed.



“Getting the flu vaccine is simple, and it’s the most important thing you can do to protect yourself and your family from the flu,” says Dr. Schuchat. Millions of people have safely received flu vaccines for decades.

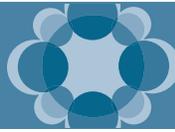


Flu vaccines are offered in many locations, including doctor’s offices, clinics, health departments, pharmacies and college health centers. They also are offered by many employers, and are even available in some schools. The next time you see a sign that says, “Get Your Flu Vaccine Here,” stop in and get one and encourage your friends and family to do the same. Use the HealthMap Vaccine Finder at [vaccine.healthmap.org](http://vaccine.healthmap.org) to find the nearest location where you and your family can get vaccinated. As long as the flu is

spreading, you can still benefit from a flu vaccine.

Most health insurance plans cover the cost of recommended vaccines. Check with your insurance provider for details of coverage. If you do not currently have health insurance, visit [www.HealthCare.gov](http://www.HealthCare.gov) to learn more about affordable health coverage options. For more information about influenza or the flu vaccine, talk to your doctor or other health care professional, visit [www.cdc.gov/flu](http://www.cdc.gov/flu) or call CDC at 1-800-CDC-INFO (800-232-4636).

*Article adapted from CDC*



## Florida SHOTS™: Help Us Mobilize Against Measles

The outbreak of measles that swept across parts of the country this winter has been worsened by uncertainty. As the number of measles cases rise, schools and communities nationwide are unsure about MMR vaccination levels, a big unknown in assessing the risk they face.

Fortunately, the Florida SHOTS registry gave state public health officials and health care providers a head start on fighting this outbreak before it ever started in Florida by allowing them to be proactive. Active participation in the Florida SHOTS registry allows health care providers to ensure that children are age-appropriately immunized against measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases. Florida SHOTS helps practitioners maintain the proper immunization schedule through features like reminder/recall and immunization-level assessment reports to determine which patients are due for vaccinations.

With this in mind, now is the time to utilize the full functionality of Florida SHOTS to protect the state's population and avert a public health crisis. **Florida SHOTS is requesting that all registry users run a reminder-recall assessment for MMR in order to call in patients who are not fully vaccinated.** This will allow for targeted interventions saving time and money while helping to ensure that our state remains measles-free.

To support these efforts, Florida SHOTS has provided a wealth of training tools that will get you up-to-speed, or just serve as refreshers, on the reminder-recall process. You can head to [flshotsusers.com/training/guides/private-provider-guides/](http://flshotsusers.com/training/guides/private-provider-guides/) where we have created a training guide with screenshots that shows step-by-step instructions on how to initiate and complete the reminder-recall process. You can also visit [flshotsusers.com/training/webinars/recorded-webinars/](http://flshotsusers.com/training/webinars/recorded-webinars/) to view a recorded webinar on reminder/recall that covers a number of issues, including:

- Running reports that show a list of your patients who are due or overdue for MMR
- Refining and sorting patient lists in a variety of ways (e.g., by type of shot)
- Downloading or printing the report as well as creating mailing labels to send vaccine reminder notices to parents

By utilizing the full functionality of Florida SHOTS, providers can also assess immunization levels, allowing them to gauge the quality of immunization services at their practice and assess immunization levels among various age groups.

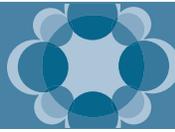
In addition to these training tools available at: [www.flshotsusers.com](http://www.flshotsusers.com), Web-based training can be accessed 24/7 by logging into your Florida SHOTS account and selecting Web-based training from the Customer Service menu.

## Current Dates of Vaccine Information Statements (VISs) as of August 14, 2015

Check your supply of VISs against this list. If you have outdated VISs, get current versions.

Adenovirus	6/11/14	MMR	4/20/12
Anthrax	3/10/10	MMRV	5/21/10
Varicella	3/13/08	Multi-vaccine	10/22/14
DTaP	5/17/07	PCV13	2/27/13
Hib	4/2/15	PPSV	4/24/15
Hepatitis A	10/25/11	Polio	11/8/11
Hepatitis B	2/2/12	Rabies	10/6/09
HPV-Cervarix	5/3/11	Rotavirus	4/15/15
HPV-Gardasil	5/17/13	Shingles	10/6/09
HPV-Gardasil 9	4/15/15	Td	2/24/15
Influenza	8/7/15	Tdap	2/24/15
J. enceph.	1/24/14	Typhoid	5/29/12
MCV4/MPSV4	10/14/11	Y. fever	3/30/11
MenB	8/14/15		





## Children and the Flu: FAQs

### Why should my child get the flu vaccine?

The flu vaccine:

- Protects your child from the flu, a potentially serious illness
- Prevents your child from spreading the flu to others, including babies younger than 6 months who are too young to get the vaccine
- Keeps your child from missing school or childcare (and keeps you from missing work to care for your sick child)

### Is the flu vaccine safe?

Yes, flu vaccines are safe. Flu vaccines have been used in the United States for more than 50 years. During that time, hundreds of millions of Americans have safely received seasonal flu vaccines. Vaccines, like any medicine, can have side effects. However, most people who get the flu vaccine have no side effects at all.

### What are the side effects?

Most children don't have any side effects from the vaccine, but it can cause mild side effects. For example, people vaccinated with the flu shot may feel achy and may have a sore arm where the shot was given. People vaccinated with the nasal spray flu vaccine may have a stuffy nose and sore throat. These side effects are NOT flu symptoms. If experienced at all, these side effects are usually mild and last only 1-2 days.

### What is the flu?

The flu—short for influenza—is an illness caused by influenza viruses. Flu viruses infect the nose, throat and lungs. The flu spreads easily and can cause serious problems, especially for very young children, older people, pregnant women, people with certain long-term medical conditions such as asthma and diabetes, and people with weakened immune systems due to cancer or HIV/AIDS or people on chronic steroids.

### What are the symptoms of the flu?

Flu symptoms can include the following:

- Fever (not everyone with the flu has a fever)
- Chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Headache
- Muscle aches
- Fatigue
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea (in some children)

Most people who contract influenza recover in a few days to less than two weeks. Some people develop complications (such as pneumonia) which can result in hospitalization and even death.

### Is it serious?

The flu can be mild or very serious. We can't be sure who will have a mild case and who will become very sick. Each year in the U.S. an average of 20,000 children younger than 5 years old need hospital care due to flu complications. Children with long-term medical conditions and children younger than 5 (especially younger than 2 years old) are more likely to require hospitalization due to the flu.

Flu seasons vary in how serious they are from one year to another. Since 2004, the total number of flu-associated deaths in children has ranged from 35 to 171 per season. This range doesn't include the 2009 pandemic season, when states reported 348 deaths in children to the CDC.

Some of the more serious complications from the flu include:

- Pneumonia (lung infection)
- Dehydration (loss of body fluids)
- Worsening of long-term medical conditions, such as asthma and diabetes

### Can my child get the flu from the flu vaccine?

No, the vaccine does not cause the flu. The flu vaccine protects your child from the flu. However, the vaccine can sometimes cause mild side effects that may be mistaken for the flu. Keep in mind that it will take about 2 weeks after getting the vaccine for your child to build up protection against the flu.

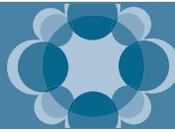
To learn more about the flu vaccine, talk to your child's doctor, call 1-800-CDC-INFO or visit [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/parents).



Information adapted from CDC

If you would like to be added to the Immunization Section's mailing list and receive **IMMU-NEWS** electronically via email, please visit our mailing list registration page at: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/mailling-list.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/mailling-list.html).





## WTXL—ABC 27 QUESTIONS CENTER: Getting Ready for Flu and Allergy Season

On September 24, 2015, officials from the Florida Department of Health were present at the WTXL Questions Center to answer questions regarding influenza and flu season.



DOH Officials at WTXL—ABC 27 Questions Center

According to officials at Tallahassee Memorial Healthcare (TMH), Florida has already seen three types of the flu this season: H1N1, H3N2, and Type B—some of which cases have been in Tallahassee.

Flu vaccines can be obtained at Primary Care offices, Walgreens, CVS, TMH, among other health care centers and businesses with pharmacies. To locate a flu shot near you visit the DOH—Immunization Section’s flu shot locator: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/locate-a-flu-shot.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/locate-a-flu-shot.html).

For additional information on flu prevention and to download flu-related publications visit: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/index.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/prevention/flu-prevention/index.html).

Heading into and throughout flu season, TMH officials urge people to wash hands, cover coughs, and stay home if they are feeling sick.

To help prepare for the flu season, staff at TMH has been immunized, an official told WTXL. Signs are placed around the hospital reminding guests and visitors to wash their hands. If patients come in with flu-like symptoms, they are immediately masked and flu swabs are taken.

**DON'T GET THE FLU.**

**DON'T SPREAD THE FLU.**

**GET VACCINATED.**



Dearline Thomas-Brown, MPH, RN, and DOH Community Health Nursing Director is interviewed at WTXL—ABC 27 Questions Center

During WTXL ABC 27's Questions Center segment, experts answered questions pertaining to the flu, flu season and fall allergies. All experts were from the Florida Department of Health and included: Dearline Thomas-Brown, MPH, RN, Executive Community Health Nursing Director; Dr. Claudia Blackburn, Health Officer of the Leon County Health Department; Dr. Russell Eggert, Bureau Chief of the Bureau of Epidemiology; and Valerie Shipley, RN and Community Health Nursing Consultant.

## Fl rida KidCare

**I want health insurance for my child. Who do I call?**

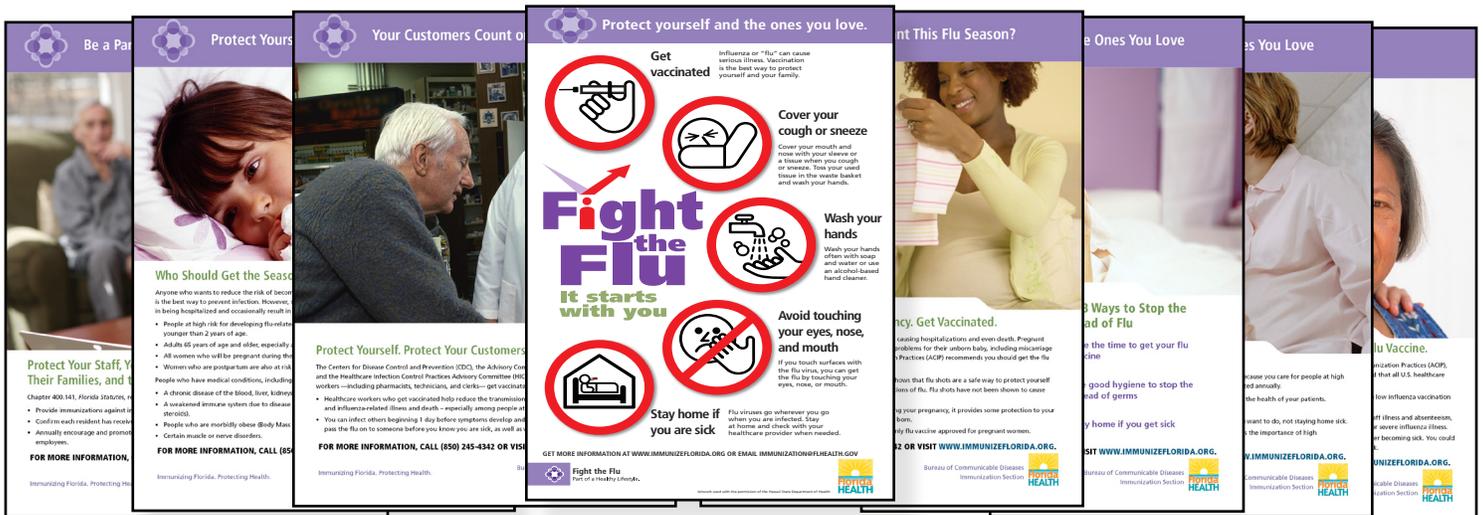
Florida ChildCare is the state health insurance program for uninsured children under age 19. It includes 4 different programs: MediChildren, Healthy Children, Children's Medical Services, and Medicaid. When you apply for the insurance, Florida ChildCare will check which program your child may be eligible for based on age and family income.

To apply for Florida ChildCare, call 1-888-540-5437, apply online, or print an application and instructions. For more information, visit [www.floridachildcare.org](http://www.floridachildcare.org).

# FLU PREVENTION

These vaccination publications, and many more, are available in Adobe PDF format for download on the Immunization Section website. Visit our publications page at: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html). Check back often as we will be adding to our publications gallery.

Many Immunization Section materials are designed for customizing to display your logo, company name, address, email, web address, and phone number. We grant immunization partners rights to display their logo, provided that no parts of the Immunizations Section's or the DOH's materials, logos, or brand are altered in any fashion. In addition, the Section's products may not be sold. If you are interested in commercial printing of these documents, please contact Jennifer Ouzts at 850-245-4444, extension 2382, or by email at [jennifer.ouzts@FLHealth.gov](mailto:jennifer.ouzts@FLHealth.gov), to request print-ready PDFs.



**Flu prevention: Vaccine before Halloween**—Flyers below created by the DOH Communications Office are now available on our website for downloading, printing, and dissemination at: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html#influenza](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html#influenza).

