



## MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM SECTION ADMINISTRATOR

### Robert M. Griffin

Welcome to the Summer edition of IMMU-NEWS!

Summer time has come around yet again and the Florida heat is on! As the summer travel season approaches, many folks will be heading off for summer vacation with family and friends. While many families embark on summer adventures, there are precautions we can ALL take to ensure a memorable vacation. Look ahead for summer travel information and flyers.

In this edition, you will find information on National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) and reasons to vaccinate. The month of August is recognized as National Immunization Awareness Month. The goal of NIAM is to increase awareness about immunizations across the lifespan, from infants to the elderly. Immunizations are NOT just for kids! Whether an adolescent, young adult, middle-aged adult, or senior adult, we ALL need immunizations to stay healthy.

The specific immunizations you need as an adult are determined by factors such as your age, lifestyle, high-risk conditions, types and locations of travel, and previous immunizations. Review the immunization schedules at: [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/index.html) to see if you have missed immunizations recommended for your age group and/or medical conditions.

The Immunization Section has had a few staff additions to share. We would like to welcome two new employees to the Florida SHOTS team. Fatima Aviles has joined the Florida SHOTS team as a Field Trainer/Coordinator and Colleen Tully has also joined the Florida SHOTS team as an Implementation Specialist. Welcome Fatima and Colleen, we look forward to working with you!

Enjoy this issue of IMMU-NEWS, and visit us online at [ImmunizeFlorida.org](http://ImmunizeFlorida.org)!

## In this Issue:

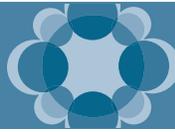
- MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM SECTION ADMINISTRATOR
- August is National Immunization Awareness Month
- 7th Annual Southwest Florida Immunization Workshop Conducted in Sarasota
- Summer Travel Notice
- Cancer Prevention and Human Papillomavirus (HPV)
- School Health Update
- DOH–Brevard Receives Prudential Productivity Award
- Text4Baby
- Immunization Section Participates in “Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day”
- Back-to-School Flyer Showcase



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



*Protect yourself and your community. Get vaccinated!*



## August is National Immunization Awareness Month

Infectious diseases do not discriminate. Diseases do not care if a host is rich or poor, short or tall, young or old, little or big, black, tan, white, freckled, covered in hair or no hair at all. Diseases thrive in all societies around the world.

The CDC, the leader in the fight of infectious diseases, deems August as National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM). This event highlights the necessity of immunizations to combat vaccine-preventable diseases and improving coverage levels for people of all ages.

Activities to raise awareness about immunization will focus on encouraging people to protect their health by being immunized. Different age groups have different immunization needs. This includes: pregnant women, babies, children, teens, young adults and adults. Although the needs may vary, the outcome is the same—to protect each individual from vaccine-preventable diseases.

In August, look for NIAM activities hosted in your community.

### A Healthy Start (Aug. 2–8)

**Pregnant women:** Women who are pregnant or planning a pregnancy, vaccination needs are determined by age, lifestyle, medical conditions and previous vaccinations. An accurate record of immunizations is important. Sharing this information with a pre-conception and prenatal health care professional will help determine which vaccines are needed before and/or during pregnancy.

**Babies:** Through immunization, infants can be protected from 14 vaccine-preventable diseases before age two. Starting from birth to age two years, infants should receive all their baby shots. Parents should encourage their health care provider to give all age-appropriate vaccines when recommended. Immunizations help keep children safe from disease and cut down on sick visits.

### Back to School (Aug. 9–15)

**Children/Teens:** From the start of day care to the completion of high school, Florida requires certain vaccines to be administered before children can enroll or attend. Students participating in public or private school campus-based activities are required to have age-appropriate vaccines with the proper documentation on file at the school.

### Off to the Future (Aug. 16–22)

**Young Adults:** Some vaccines may be recommended for adults because of a particular job or school-related requirements, health conditions, lifestyle or other factors. For example, some states require students entering colleges and universities to be vaccinated against certain diseases like meningitis due to increased risk among college students living in residential housing.

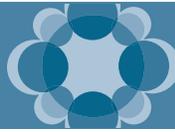
### Not Just for Kids (Aug. 23–29)

**Adults:** Vaccinations are recommended throughout life to prevent vaccine-preventable diseases. Many adults are unaware of the need for vaccinations after high school or college. As a result, adult vaccination coverage is low. Research shows that adult patients are willing to get a vaccine when it is recommended by their health care provider, according to the Adult Immunization Standards of Practice. It is recommended that providers screen adult patients to determine vaccine needs, administer the vaccine, and/or refer the patient to a provider who is able to administer the vaccine.



## 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



## 7th Annual Southwest Florida Immunization Workshop Conducted in Sarasota

Donna Weaver, RN, MN, CDC Nurse Educator and Jorge Lujan-Zilbermann, M.D., Hill-Top Research, Inc. in St. Petersburg, were the keynote speakers at the 7th Annual SW Florida Immunization Workshop held at the State College of Florida at Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota on May 21 with 160 participants.

Ms. Weaver's presentation provided a summary of ACIP changes to the immunization schedule for infants, adolescent, and adults this past year including the addition of the recently approved and VFC program available Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) 9 vaccine. Ms. Weaver provided an insightful review of HPV immunization coverage levels. The review indicates a continued low completion rate for the vaccines three-dose series. There was discussion on how to improve those immunization coverage levels, including provider and community education methods to further accurate and positive information related to the impressive cancer prevention benefits of the HPV vaccine. The HPV 9 vaccine increases cancer prevention benefits by adding an additional 5 preventative cancer strains.

Dr. Lujan-Zilbermann provided valuable scientific and research related information related to the HPV vaccine including information on how the HPV virus can be transmitted to a newly born infant during birth. Dr. Lujan-Zilbermann also discussed the importance of medical providers engaging in targeted educational methods to parents who are still hesitant on providing the HPV vaccine to their teens due to misinformation and misunderstanding. The immunization provider plays a vital role in the education process as parents view the provider as the most trusted source of accurate



and trustworthy medical information. This in conjunction with valuable community education and preventative efforts by health departments and other community based organizations and coalitions will greatly assist with increasing HPV immunization coverage levels.

Michael Drennon, Epidemiologist at the Department of Health in Sarasota County and Carrie Harter, Epidemiologist at the Department of Health in Manatee County provided an overview of the most challenging reportable disease this past year. Included in their presentations was information on Ebola virus response as well

as the many hours spent with preventing Measles spreading in their respective counties due to known measles cases that had traveled to both communities.

The Pinellas County Immunization Coalition organization, PITCH members Samantha Staley and Andrea Peaton, provided a great parental educational role play using workshop participants as part of this exercise. The exercise provided types of parental hesitancy most immunization providers experience and how to affectively respond to those concerns to help increase timely immunizations.

Concluding a very productive workshop was a presentation by Keenan Farrar, Florida SHOTS Education Consultant, regarding upgrades to Florida SHOTS this past year including bi-directional data flow between many electronic health records (EHR) and Florida SHOTS as well as the addition of the refrigerator and freezer temperature monitoring programming. This programming allows VFC providers to manually data enter twice daily temperature readings or upload weekly VFC supplied data logger temperature files into Florida SHOTS. This valuable update allows providers to more closely monitor refrigerator and freezer temperatures in order to help assure vaccine safety and efficacy as well as reduce unnecessary spoilage and wastage for increasingly expensive vaccines.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!**

### 8th Annual SW Florida Immunization Workshop

**WHEN:** Thursday, May 20, 2016

**TIME:** 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM (Registration from 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM)

**WHERE:** State College of Florida at Lakewood Ranch

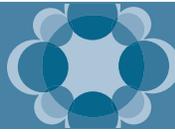
**NOTE:** Electronic Registration will begin in February/March 2016

## Summer Travel Notice

### Traveling This Summer? Ensure you are Vaccinated.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than a third of Americans have passports. Each year unvaccinated people get measles and other vaccine-preventable diseases while in other countries and bring it back to the United States. It is important to remember that some types of international travel, especially to developing countries and rural areas, have higher health risks. Vaccines can help protect against a number of serious diseases which are rare in the United States but still occur in developing countries, such as polio. Measles still occur in many countries, including common travel destinations in Europe and Asia. In 2014 many of the cases in United States were associated with cases brought in from the Philippines, which experienced a large measles outbreak. So far this year, about 170 people have been reported as having measles in the United States. Most of these people were not

*continued next page*



vaccinated or did not know if they were vaccinated. Nearly all of the cases are associated with international travel.

Talk with your health care professional if you are planning international travel. Since not all primary health care professionals stock travel vaccines, you may need to visit a travel clinic to receive the vaccines you need. You may visit: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/find-clinic](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/page/find-clinic) to find a travel medicine clinic near you, and then follow the steps below to ensure you are protected.

Make an appointment with your health care professional or travel clinic at least 4-6 weeks prior to any international travel. This allows time to complete any vaccine series and gives your body time to build up immunity. You may visit: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/destinations/list/) to find out about vaccine recommendations and requirements for your travel destination.

When talking to your health care professional about your travel, make sure you are up-to-date on routine vaccines, such as MMR prior to travel. You may visit: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/routine](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/diseases/routine) to find out more about routine vaccines.

Find out if the country you are visiting requires proof of yellow fever vaccine. This vaccine can only be given by a registered provider and must be given at least 10 days prior to travel. You may visit: [wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellow-fever-vaccination-clinics/search](http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/yellow-fever-vaccination-clinics/search) to locate a Yellow Fever Vaccination Clinic.

## Cancer Prevention and Human Papillomavirus (HPV)

The Cancer Alliance of Marion County and The Marion County Children's Alliance joined the Florida Department of Health (DOH), Regional Cancer Centers, and local physicians in recognizing the importance of the community being well informed about Cancer Prevention and the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) during an HPV regional panel meeting in Marion County.

On Wednesday May 20, 2015, from 5:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m., an HPV Regional Panel Discussion titled, *Efforts to Reduce Cancer Burden through HPV Vaccination* was held in the multi-purpose conference room of the Marion County Sheriff's Department located at 3300 NW 10th Street, Ocala, Florida. The event was free of charge and open to the public. The panelists provided brief, individual presentations for general adult audience, followed by a question and answer session that was moderated by Hayley Creasey, RN, Oncology Service Line Director, Ocala Health System.



**Visiting Another Country? Protect Your Family.**

**Think Measles**  
Measles is a serious viral disease that is easily spread through the air by breathing, coughing, or sneezing.

**Before You Travel**  
Talk with your healthcare provider if you are planning an international trip. Measles is common in many countries worldwide, with outbreaks reported in Europe, Africa, and Asia. Measles is preventable through 11 months of age should have at least one dose of measles-containing vaccine prior to travel. Children 12 months of age or older should have two doses, separated by at least 28 days. Adults should review their vaccination records to ensure they are up-to-date.

**After You Travel**  
Call your healthcare provider if anyone gets a fever and rash within 3 weeks of returning from your trip. Describe your symptoms and where you traveled.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 850-245-4342 OR VISIT [WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG](http://WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG).  
FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, VISIT [WWW.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL).

Immunizing Florida. Protecting Health.

**Bring Home Memories—Not Diseases**

**Immunizations Can Protect You From Many Diseases Common in Other Countries**  
Preparation for foreign travel should include a visit to your healthcare provider to talk about health safety at your travel destination for you and your family.

**Ask about:**

- Setting up an appointment for immunization 4-6 weeks in advance of departure.
- Routine vaccinations recommended or required for entry into specific countries.
- Personal health issues, which may increase your risk for disease or complications.
- A personal immunization record card of immunization dates.

Immunizing before your trip will help prevent introduction of vaccine-preventable diseases into your community upon return home.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 850-245-4342 OR VISIT [WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG](http://WWW.IMMUNIZEFLORIDA.ORG).  
FOR INFORMATION REGARDING INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, VISIT [WWW.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL](http://WWW.CDC.GOV/TRAVEL).

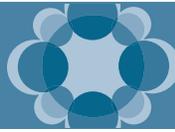
Immunizing Florida. Protecting Health.

The panelists included: Steve Bucy, MD, Robert Boissoneault Oncology Institute (RBOI), Ocala; Susan Vadaparampil, PhD, Moffitt Cancer Center, Tampa; Dearline Thomas-Brown, MPH, BSN, RN, DOH-Immunization Section, Tallahassee; Philip Johnson, MD, Ocala Women's Health, Ocala; Geoffrey Young, MD, Head & Neck, Mayo Clinic, Jacksonville; Jacqueline Castagno, MD, GYN Oncologist, UF Women's Health, Gainesville, and Donna Fritz, RN, DOH-Marion County.

This event provided a forum for parents, guardians, health care professionals, community leaders, and anyone interested in learning more about cancer prevention through HPV vaccination to attend, ask questions, voice concerns, and received factual information from experts in the health care profession.

Immunization Travel Vaccine Flyers are available for download at: [www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html#travel](http://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/publications/flyers.html#travel).





## School Health Update

The Florida School Health Association (FSHA) is a multidisciplinary organization of administrators, school nurses, health educators, counselors, physical educators, social workers, psychologists, and nutritionists. The purpose of the Association is to support a comprehensive and coordinated approach resulting in improved school health programs in the state of Florida. The FSHA believes that the ability to learn at school is directly related to the status of the student's well-being. The FSHA is also dedicated to keeping members informed on the current issues facing school health and provides an annual conference with informative sessions and networking opportunities for professional development. This keeps members up to date with legislative issues affecting school health, and supports a coordinated school effort.

The FSHA 2015 Annual Training and Conference held May 13–15, 2015, at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, Florida provided essential training for school nurses, health educators, health services and student services personnel, prevention specialists, and counselors on critical topics related to school health, prevention, and safety. The FSHA Board extended special thanks to the many vendors that exhibited, the attendees, and to those who gave their time to present on today's important topics related to School Health. FSHA Conference presenters from the Florida Department of Health included: John Armstrong, MD, FASC, State Surgeon General, opening session keynote speaker; Shay Chapman, MBA, BSN, RN, School, Adolescent and Reproductive Health Section Administrator, who provided the *School Health Services Program* presentation; and Dearline Thomas-Brown, MPH, BSN, RN, Executive Community Health Nursing Director, Immunization Section, provided the *Measles and More: Immunization Updates* presentation. The 2015 FSHA Conference was a great success.

## DOH–Brevard Receives Prudential Productivity Award

On June 23, 2015 DOH–Brevard received a Prudential Productivity Award for an Immunization Workshop presented in June 2014. Private and public medical providers and staff in Brevard County attended the one day event. The workshop included presentations on Storage and Handling of vaccines, Vaccine for Children overview and a Florida SHOTS overview. Helen Medlin, BSN, RN, DOH–Brevard was the lead planner of this workshop along with Robert Colon, Immunization Section Area 5 assisting. The award recipients included Phoebe Griffin, Senior Clerk—Immunizations; Robert Colon, Immunizations Section Area 5; Dawn Jones, Registered Nurse; and Felicita Olmeda, Registered Nurse.



Helen Medlin, RN, BSN

## Text4Baby

Text4baby is the first mobile information service designed to promote maternal and child health through text messaging. Text4baby is a free service provided by the non-profit National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB) and was created in collaboration with Founding Sponsor Johnson & Johnson, and founding partners Voxiva, The Wireless Foundation, and Grey Health care Group (a WPP company).



Women who sign up for the service will receive free text messages each week, timed to their due date or baby's date of birth. The messages focus on a variety of topics critical to maternal and child health, including birth defects prevention, immunization, nutrition, seasonal flu, mental health, oral health, and safe sleep. Text4baby messages also connect women to prenatal and infant care services and other resources.

Text4baby is supported and promoted by a public-private partnership of over 1,200 health departments, academic institutions, health plans, businesses, and the federal government. Text4baby is the largest national mobile health initiative reaching over 685,000 moms since launch in 2010.

Signing up for Text4baby is easy and just takes a few minutes. Follow these easy steps, or you can sign up online:

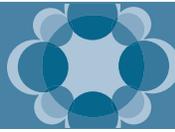
Text BABY (or BEBE for Spanish) to 511411.

1. When prompted, enter your due date and zip code.
2. That's it! Now tell your friends and family!

### Set Up Free Appointment Reminders with Text4baby

1. Text REMIND (or CITA for Spanish) to 511411.
2. Enter appointment date. For example, enter 7/7/2014 as 07072014.
3. Enter appointment description with time, place and purpose (ex. 3pm appt w Dr. Parker).
4. Reminder text will be sent three days before and the morning of appointment.
5. You can set up as many reminders as you need, at any time.

Text UPDATE to change your due date or baby's birthday. You can cancel the service at any time by texting STOP or HELP for technical assistance. For more information, or to sign up online, please visit: [text4baby.org/](http://text4baby.org/)



## Immunization Section Participates in 'Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day'

On Thursday of April 23, 2015, the Immunization Section employees participated in *Take Our Daughters and Sons to Work Day*. The Immunization staff encouraged their children and grandchildren to participate in the work day event.

Since 1993, more than 37 million children, parents and schools have participated in the event with over 3.5 million workplaces across the country. There are also 200 countries around the world participating in this event of taking their children to work for a day.

The youthful immunization visitors started their morning at the office with a meet-and-greet in the conference room. A simple brunch was provided while they were welcomed by the immunization staff. Each child received an immunization packet containing educational information, which they could take back to school and share with their classmates.



The children participated in a "Healthy Walk." The outing covered about a mile around the Department of Health complex. The outdoor excursion was followed by a hand washing demonstration provided the Bureau of Epidemiology, Operations and Training Section. After the clean hands demonstration



the youthful guests went off to lunch. Upon return, they spent the afternoon observing and participating in their parents work.

According to the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work Foundation: The Program is designed to be more than a career day, the Take Our Daughters And Sons To Work program goes beyond the average "shadow" of an adult. Exposing girls and boys to what a parent or mentor in their lives does during the work day is important, but showing them the value of their education, helping them discover the power and possibilities associated with a balanced work and family life, and



providing them an opportunity to share how they envision the future and begin steps toward their end goals in a hands-on and interactive environment is key to their achieving success. Each year, we develop new interactive activities and partnerships that will assist us in taking girls and boys to the future they envision for themselves.



## I Want Health Insurance for My Child. Who Do I Call?

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

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

Fl  rida KidCare

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).



