



Florida Health Mission:

To protect, promote
& improve the health
of all people
in Florida through
integrated state, county,
& community efforts.

Rick Scott
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John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
Surgeon General & Secretary

**Florida Department of Health
Lee County**

Main Office
3920 Michigan Avenue
Fort Myers, FL 33916
www.leechd.com

www.floridahealth.gov
TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh

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Contact: Diane Holm, PIO
(239) 332-9561
(850) 519-5728 (cell)
Diane.Holm@FLHealth.gov

Florida Department of Health in Lee County
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SCHOOL VACCINES OFFERED ONE SATURDAY

Clinic open one day for working parents to avoid back to school rush

Lee County, FL—The Florida Department of Health in Lee County is opening from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, May 9, 2015 to give free back to school immunizations for the children of working parents who can't get into a private practitioner's office or DOH-Lee for immunizations during week days. The clinic is at 3920 Michigan Avenue in Fort Myers.

"This one-time clinic is planned to help parents who must schedule time off of work to get their children's required 7th grade vaccines," said Kim Wester, DOH-Lee immunizations manager. "Immunizations are among the most successful and cost-effective public health tools for preventing disease and death. We hope this will help reduce the long lines and wait times in August."

"It is always difficult for students, who are excited about the first day of a new school year, to be sent home because they did not arrive on that first day properly immunized," said Pete Bohatch, director of Student Services. "Taking care of these important immunizations now will ensure everyone gets to enjoy the first day of 7th grade as they should."

The immunization clinic is targeting students entering 7th grade in the fall, because often they are the largest group of students seen at DOH-Lee during the back to school rush due to incomplete vaccine records, said Wester. Parents must bring their child's immunization records.

Vaccines not only help protect vaccinated individuals, but also help protect entire communities by preventing and reducing the spread of infectious diseases. Lee County children have nearly twice Florida's average rate of vaccine preventable illnesses, which means they miss days of learning at school.

The importance of immunizations has made headlines recently with measles and pertussis outbreaks. Parents are urged to make an appointment early with their healthcare professional or visit DOH-Lee before July to get their children's vaccines completed on time and avoid the rush.

All vaccines for children are free and given without appointments from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 1 to 3:30 p.m. Friday at the DOH-Lee clinic, 3920 Michigan Avenue.

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