

Public Health Broward is a newsletter for the community from the Florida Department of Health in Broward. We will focus on public health issues and services offered by the Department.

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Public Health Broward

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DOH-Broward receives 2018 Governor's Sterling Award

It's official ... Gov. Rick Scott delivered the good news in May.

"The Florida Sterling Council and Governor Scott today announced that the Florida Department of Health in Broward County is the recipient of the prestigious Governor's Sterling Award for 2018," Scott said in the announcement.

"This award is the highest recognition an organization in Florida can receive for performance excellence."

It was a team effort, DOH-Broward Director Dr. Paula Thaqi said in a note to her staff: "This is because of all of your hard work, both during the Sterling process and each and every day. I am very proud to work with all of you."



Congratulations!"

The Governor praised DOH-Broward for its leading public health role in the nation's 17th largest county.

"DOH-Broward has met or exceeded targets for 98.2% of all its performance measures (5,871 total measures) by using its Shared Accountability model that effectively ties together all resources, end-to-end in the organizational chain of command," Scott said.

"DOH-Broward has maintained high levels of customer satisfaction, increasing from 87.6% in 2013 to 99% in 2017, with the overall customer satisfaction among the Department's seven facilities achieving 99.1% to 100%."

The Governor and Sterling examiners singled out four improvements: increased number of TB patients completing therapy within 12 months, reduction in the black infant mortality rate, increased rate of kindergarten children fully immunized, and increased rate of refugees screened within 90 days of arrival into the U.S.

"The Department builds and maintains its relationship with community partners through a robust system of service and leadership on many community coalitions, task forces and committees fulfilling its cornerstone principle of Leader of the Local Public Health System," the Governor said.

The award will be presented June 1 during a statewide conference in Orlando.

Spotlight on ...

Reminder postcards say baby needs a vaccination

'Shots by 2' program helps busy parents remember



Changing diapers. Feedings every few hours. Visits from the grandparents. Soothing their crying babies.

New parents are so busy that important things can easily fall through the cracks and be forgotten. That includes taking the babies to the doctor for vaccinations needed to keep them healthy and safe from diseases.

DOH-Broward has a service just for them – Shots by 2, a reminder program that sends families a cute and colorful postcard whenever the little one is due for a vaccination.

Babies need to be immunized against 14 contagious and potentially serious diseases, and the vaccination schedule can be complicated. Shots by 2 makes it easier to keep up with what comes next, and when.

“Giving babies the recommended immunizations by age 2 is the best way parents can protect their babies from dangerous diseases,” says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward.

In recent years, Broward County has seen a few cases of old-school, vaccine-preventable childhood diseases that are highly contagious, including measles, mumps, chickenpox and whooping cough.

In a county with 23,000 births a year, Shots by 2 sends postcards to thousands of families every month. They receive seven reminders – at two months old, four months old, six months old, one year old, 15 months old, 18 months old and two years old.



DOH-Broward was very pleased that in a state review last year, 90.1 percent of two-year-old children in Broward were fully vaccinated, up sharply from 80.4 percent just two years earlier. The state average was 85 percent.

To sign up for the reminder service, visit www.shotsby2.com or call 954-467-4700, Ext. 3006.

[Hurricane season: Register in advance for special needs shelter](#)



Alberto has given us an early wake-up call ... it's never too soon in South Florida to make your hurricane preparations.

Tropical storm season starts this week and runs through November 30, and everyone remembers the disruption, damage and distress from Hurricane Irma last September. Nothing eases the stress of an emergency like having details and decisions resolved in advance.

An example: As Irma approached, a flood of people with special medical needs rushed to make reservations in special needs shelters, causing snarls.

Broward County Emergency Management and the Florida Department of Health in Broward County urges you to register in advance for a special needs shelter.

Adults: www.broward.org/AtRisk/Pages/SpecialNeeds.aspx

Children: <http://broward.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/hurricanes/index.html>

More hurricane tips from the Department of Health:

1. Write an emergency plan – List special transportation needs, an emergency meeting place, a plan for evacuating if needed, an out of town contact for all to use and a pet plan.

2. Emergency supplies – One gallon of water per person for 7 days. Non-perishable foods such as canned meat, fish, veggies, fruits and nuts for 3 to 7 days. Can opener, disposable plates, utensils, matches and cooking gel. Flashlights with spare batteries.

3. Medical needs – List all family members' special medical needs, medications, physician contact information, blood types and allergies. Get a 30-day supply of prescriptions, plus over the counter pain reliever, antacids and anti-diarrhea medicine.

4. First-aid kit – Sterile bandages, cleansing agent, safety pins, gauze pads, scissors, sewing needle, moist towelettes and tape.

5. Your home – Make repairs if needed. Take photos of home and belongings. Double-check insurance.

6. Waterproof container of data – Include contact information for insurer, emergency agencies, family and friends. Credit card and bank information. Electronic copies of mortgage, home deed, car title, etc. Instructions for shutting off utilities. Family and pet health records.

7. Mosquito protection – Practice "Drain and Cover" by getting rid of standing water in and around your house, using repellent with DEET or other effective substance, wearing long pants and sleeves when outdoors, and repairing broken screens on windows and doors.

More information – www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/emergency-preparedness-and-response/index.html

Interactive tool – www.floridadisaster.org/getaplan/



[New name, expanded mission for dental sealant program](#)



Meet Sealy. He's the new mascot of the newly rechristened program that protects children's teeth by painting on a thin plastic coating.

Don't call it the School-Based Dental Sealant Program any more. Please call it Broward Dental SEALS.

While the program's original name was certainly accurate, it didn't exactly roll off the tongue or grab the attention of kids or their parents.

Manager Jackie Tufts hopes that Sealy and the new name will attract more families to participate in the FREE oral health program.

SEALS stands for "Sealing & Educating All Little Smiles," and the program has already started promoting the new name in information sent to Broward schools and families.

Look for a new beach theme in the fall.

Now completing its second school year, the program will serve 34,000 children at 138 Title 1 elementary and middle schools in 2017-18. DOH dental hygienists apply a thin, colorless, tasteless coating to kids' molars, which keeps away bacteria that cause cavities.

The service will expand significantly starting in August. Broward County Public Schools has invited DOH-Broward to serve children up to eighth grade in all public and charter schools – more than 250 in all.

[About 500 get off the couch for Healthy Broward Run and Walk](#)

The food ran out, except for a few bagels. So did the T-shirts. Parking was tight.

All those were signs of success for Healthy Broward Run and Walk, a first-time event that attracted many more people than expected – almost 500 participants plus those working at the accompanying health resource fair.

The event was conceived by DOH-Broward and partner agencies to observe National Public Health Week in April and to encourage physical activity in the community.

"This is another way that we can get people moving as part of a healthy lifestyle," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward. "We hope to make this an annual event for our community."



Dr. Thaqi thanked the community partners and sponsors who supported the project.

Partners included Broward County, FLIPANY, Broward Community and Family Health Centers, Broward Sheriff's Office, YMCA of South Florida, Broward Health, Holy Cross Hospital, Children's Services Council, Broward Regional Health Planning Council, TOUCH program and Broward County Public Library.

Platinum sponsors: KidCare Outreach Program, Broward County and DOH. Gold sponsor: AIDS Healthcare Foundation. Silver sponsor DOH Tobacco Prevention Program. Bronze sponsors: CSC, ISS Global Marine Travel, Stumpff Chiropractic and Wolf & Pravato Law Firm.

This was not a fund-raiser or a super-competitive race. The main idea was to get people off the couch and enjoying healthy activity.

The event unfolded at Markham Park in Sunrise just after dawn on an April Saturday morning. Almost 300 ran in the timed 5K race that attracted people from ages 1 to 79, and about 200 made a one-mile fun walk with family, friends or co-workers.

The 2019 event is penciled in at a new location: Central Broward Regional Park in Lauderhill. It's closer to the population center and more accessible to underserved neighborhoods.

To see hundreds of photos from the event, visit: <https://www.irista.com/gallery/a68ibmdsgqv2>.

Caption: Family crosses the finish line together

[Serving up information on health equity, water safety](#)

If there's one thing DOH-Broward does often, it's gather people together for education, information and awareness.

Part 1

More than 240 people came out to learn about one of the Department's 7 main priorities: Health Equity. The Children's Health Equity Symposium delved into the negative impact on health caused by systemic bias and "adverse childhood experiences," such as abuse, addiction, family problems and domestic violence.

Many people have not recognized social inequities as an important factor in health until recent years.

"The speakers covered a lot of important information that everyone in the health field needs to know," says the moderator, School Health Program Manager Maureen O'Keeffe (above at right).



Perhaps the most anticipated segment was Broward County Public School officials explaining how they helped people cope emotionally after the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High.

Part 2

The swimming pool industry, health care professionals, community agency staffers and high school students 200 strong learned about drowning prevention at a seminar co-sponsored by DOH-Broward.



The Water Safety Symposium was a joint effort by DOH Drowning Prevention staff and agencies in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties.

The message was simple: Have adult eyes on children every second they are in or near water (choose Water Watchers), teach adults and children to swim, and set up physical barriers around water.

Protecting children under age 5 is the focus of DOH-Broward's program, but the info covered all ages.

"We were happy to get our message across to a large number of people from all over South Florida, for a second straight year," says Cassie McGovern, Manager of the DOH-Broward Drowning Prevention program.

Caption: Ms. McGovern (right) with DOH Health Educator Vanessa Figueroa (left) and keynote speaker Dr. Julie Gilchrist.

[Our Programs, Services and Locations](#)

- * [Breast and Cervical Cancer](#) – Mammograms, pap smears, diagnostic testing, medical referrals and education for eligible women
- * [Broward Dental SEALS](#) -- Hygienists apply coating of tasteless, colorless plastic on students' teeth during visits to schools
- * [Dental Care](#) – High-quality dental services for children and for adults in the Ryan White Part A program.
- * [Drowning Prevention](#) -- Information and advocacy to prevent childhood drownings
- * [Environmental Health](#) -- Inspections, permits and sanitary nuisance complaints
- * [Epidemiology](#) -- Monitoring, investigation and control of infectious disease outbreaks, and data collection
- * [Family Planning](#) -- Exams, counseling, birth control and sterilization
- * [Hepatitis](#) – Testing, vaccination, diagnosis and medical referrals
- * [HIV/AIDS Prevention and Testing](#) – Prevention in the community, testing at our locations or by community partners
- * [Immunizations](#) – Childhood and adult vaccines in our locations and in the community
- * [KidCare Outreach](#) -- Recruiting and enrolling families in state-sponsored health coverage for children
- * [Pharmacy](#) – Medications for clients enrolled in AIDS Drug Assistance Program, Ryan White Part A program and our services
- * [Public Health Preparedness](#) -- Planning, training and coordinating health system response to address emergencies
- * [Refugee Health](#) – Testing, immunizations and medical referrals for federally designated refugees

- * [School Health](#) -- Nursing care and health services for students in public schools
- * [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) (STD) – Surveillance and partner services. Testing and treatment provided by Broward Wellness Center under contract with DOH-Broward
- * [Tobacco Prevention](#) -- Education and advocacy to reduce usage of inhaled nicotine products
- * [Tuberculosis](#) – Testing, diagnosis, treatment and directly observed therapy
- * [Vital Records](#) -- Birth and death certificates
- * [Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\)](#) – Nutrition counseling, aid buying nutritious foods, breastfeeding support and referrals

HEALTH CENTERS and WOMEN INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) OFFICES



Edgar P. Mills Health Center | 900 NW 31st Ave., Fort Lauderdale
 Fort Lauderdale Health Center | 2421 SW 6th Ave.
 Paul Hughes Health Center | 205 NW Sixth Ave., Pompano Beach
 North Regional Health Center | 601 W. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach
 (No WIC)

South Regional Health Center | 4105 Pembroke Rd., Hollywood

WIC-ONLY OFFICES

Coral Springs | 10077 NW 29th Street
 Lauderdale Lakes | 4481 North State Road 7
 Pembroke Pines | 8374 Pines Boulevard

OTHER

Administrative Center | 780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale FL 33315
 Operations Center | 2421-A SW 6th Avenue, Fort Lauderdale

CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS: [Health centers](#) 954-467-4705 or [WIC](#) 954-767-5111

Editor's note on Issue #16

Public Health Broward is published by the
 Florida Department of Health in Broward County

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

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

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