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Public Health Broward

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In This Issue ...

[DOH Vaccinates Record 2,100 Children](#)[Spotlight -- Dating Matters](#)[Protect Yourself Against Mosquito-Borne Illness](#)[Schools Sharpen Asthma Care for Students](#)[Students Ace National Radon Poster Contest](#)[Middle Schoolers Create Healthy Meals](#)[Our Services and Locations](#)

DOH Vaccinates Record 2,100 Children



One by one, more than 2,100 school children emerged from Lauderhill Mall in August with as many as seven Band-Aids on their little arms.

They were the stars of the back-to-school immunization campaign by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County, which administered all shots kids needed to start school on Aug. 18.

Over 13 days, DOH-Broward gave 5,014 shots to 2,102 children, and supplied another 1,037 with immunization documents required by the schools – all record highs.

Margery Datus-Vincent vaccinates Benjamin Oliveira, 9

Tears? Not too many. Waiting lines? Sometimes. Complaining parents? Very few.

The campaign ran like clockwork in space donated by the mall, at 1299-E N. State Road 7.

“Thank you for doing this,” one Coconut Creek father said after his two sons got their shots. “Our family really needed this help.”

Florida law states that students cannot attend school until they receive six vaccines that protect against nine contagious and potentially fatal childhood diseases.

DOH-Broward conducts its campaign every year to make sure no child gets turned away from school because they lack vaccinations.

The required vaccines include: DTaP for diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis (whooping cough); a related booster called Tdap; polio; MMR for measles, mumps, rubella (German measles); varicella (chickenpox) and hepatitis B.

“One of the most important things parents can do is to protect their children against diseases,” says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Health Officer of DOH-Broward. “Vaccines have helped us wipe out diseases that used to kill our children.”

Last school year, state figures show that 93.6 percent of Broward kindergarteners and 96.6 percent of seventh graders were fully immunized. The goal is 95 percent.



Nilka Reyes helps a family with documents

The campaign included a daylong health fair, when DOH-Broward gave away 480 backpacks (supported by Florida KidCare) and 150 bicycle helmets (supported by the Florida Department of Transportation). The non-profit group Feeding South Florida gave away 4,600 pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables to more than 300 families.

Kids can still get free vaccines at four DOH-Broward health centers. [Find more information](#) or call 954-467-4705.

Spotlight on ...

Dating Matters

Teaching Students, Parents to Prevent Teen Dating Violence



Dating Matters assembly with student mentors

Theon Eames could tell that his middle school students got the message when he talked about what makes an unhealthy relationship.

“They would get a look in their eyes, like a light bulb went on. You knew they recognized something detrimental was going on in their lives,” Eames says.

The former teacher at Olsen Middle School in Dania Beach saw that look many times during two years of implementing Dating Matters. It’s a pilot program designed to prevent a troubling rise in dating violence involving teens. About

10 percent of high schoolers surveyed have experienced physical violence by a dating partner.

The local program is run by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and the Broward County Public Schools, through a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dating Matters features a curriculum for middle schoolers ages 11 to 14, offers a teaching component for their parents and uses high schoolers as mentors.



Sarah Anselme

The main goal of the program focuses on teaching youths about healthy, respectful, non-violent relationships. If kids find themselves in an unhealthy relationship, the program provides them with tools and resources on how to get help and cope

The CDC chose Broward as one of only four urban locales (along with Baltimore, Chicago and Oakland/Alameda County) for a five-year study of the teen dating violence curriculum.

Starting in 2012, families at six selected middle schools (Olsen, William Dandy, Apollo, McNicol, Deerfield Beach and Gulfstream) have had intensive lessons, says Heidi Vaniman, Dating Matters Marketing Specialist at DOH-Broward.

Each eighth grader gets the Safe Dates curriculum, which is 10 sessions that delve into healthy relationships, bullying and substance abuse. Sixth and seventh graders get a CDC-developed pilot curriculum to lay a foundation. All of their parents are offered training lasting three to six weeks.

Six other schools (Attucks, Lauderdale Lakes, Crystal Lake, Pompano Beach, James Rickards and Silver Lakes) offer a smaller program involving only eighth graders.

In the first two school years of Dating Matters, more than 7,000 students have gone through the program.

“More kids than you would think have been the victim of violence,” says Sarah Anselme, a high school senior who serves as a mentor to middle school students. “We tell them they deserve to have good relationships.”

The mentors (called i2i ambassadors) host many events for the younger kids, including a hugely popular roller-skating evening.

“High schoolers are sent instead of adults because most teens don’t feel comfortable talking one-on-one with an elder,” Sarah says.

“i2i does not promote dating among younger teens,” Sarah says. “The program is here to help kids who are afraid to talk to their parents, or are having feelings for another individual.

“Having feelings for someone is a new experience for them. It’s a feeling that they can’t seem to grasp or yet understand. All kids know is they want to be accepted, no matter what the cost. This is where peer pressure, bullying and abuse come into effect.”

DOH-Broward officials were sparked to apply for a Dating Matters grant after a 2010 tragedy. A Deerfield Beach boy, 15, grew so enraged by a text-message exchange that he stomped the head of a girl, 15, causing permanent brain damage. The case made national headlines and shined a light on teen violence.

“Young teens are at their most vulnerable point at this time,” Sarah says. “No matter how many conversations a parent can have with their child, they still feel society’s pressure acting upon them. This is why i2i is such a great program.”

[Find more information](#) or call 954-467-4700 ext. 4047.

Read [Sarah Anselme's essay](#) on the program

Protect Yourself Against Mosquito-Borne Illness

The mosquito-borne virus chikungunya has spread from the Caribbean to South Florida this year.

Only seven locally acquired cases have been reported in Florida (four in Palm Beach and one in Miami-Dade) and very few mosquitoes appear to be carrying the disease. What's more, the key to prevention is not complicated – just keep the bugs at bay.

The culprits of chikungunya are the little black *Aedes aegypti* and *Aedes albopictus* mosquitoes, which also carry the tropical virus dengue fever. You have seen Aedes bugs. They live near people, in your yard or even in the house.

“The best way to protect yourself is to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes,” says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Health Officer of the Florida Department of Health in Broward County. “We recommend a practice called Drain and Cover.”

Drain standing water in and around the house, even tiny amounts. *Aedes* mosquitoes can breed in containers as small as a bottle cap.

Get rid of water collected in garbage cans, pool covers, flower pots and the like. Discard items where water collects. Inside the home, *Aedes* bugs breed in wet areas such as ice makers, electric toothbrush holders and drips under sinks.

Cover yourself and the openings in your home.

If you are outdoors when mosquitoes are active, wear shoes, socks, long pants and long sleeves. *Aedes* is a daytime biter. You may spray bare skin and clothing with repellent (make sure it contains DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus or IR3535). Keep windows and doors closed, and repair damaged screens.

Chikungunya (pronounced chicken-GOON-ye) and dengue fever are similar. Symptoms include fever, joint pain, headache, muscle pain and rash. The tropical viruses rarely kill but can cause lingering ailments, such as joint pain that can last for months or years.

Neither disease is contagious from human to human. Both spread when a mosquito bites an infected person and then passes the virus by biting someone else.

[Request](#) educational materials.

[Find more information](#)

[Report mosquito infestation online](#) or call 954-765-4062

Schools Sharpen Asthma Care for Students

Northeast High School in Oakland Park has become the first secondary school in Florida to be

designated as “asthma friendly.”

The Florida Asthma Coalition recognized 17 schools statewide – three in Broward County – that met tough standards for helping students cope with the lung disease.

Creating “asthma friendly schools” in Broward was a joint project of the Florida Department of Health in Broward, Broward County Public Schools and the American Lung Association.

“The idea is for students to have as few problems with asthma as possible so they can spend their time learning,” said Maureen O’Keeffe, School Health Program Manager at DOH-Broward. “Nurses, teachers and staff had to be trained about how to deal with asthma. At a school as big as Northeast, that’s a lot of work.”

The designation earns Northeast a \$500 stipend. The same is true for Broward’s two other winning schools: Eagle Point Elementary in Weston and Maplewood Elementary in Coral Springs.

To win, schools must train selected staff in asthma management at least every other year. They also must have medication available at all times, must hang asthma-education posters and must offer gym classes and activities appropriate for affected students.

Federal grants (\$750,000 a year for Florida) aim to address a nationwide rise in asthma cases among children. Statewide, an estimated 20.5 percent of middle schoolers had the disease in 2012, up from 17 percent six years earlier. Among high schoolers, about 17 percent have asthma.

DOH-Broward’s effort was spearheaded by Tina Smith, Quality Assurance Coordinator in the School Health Program. She mentored all three winning schools with their training and applications.

[Find more information](#)

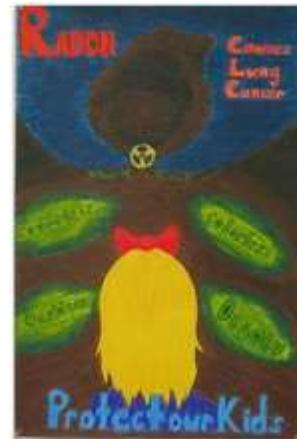
Students Ace National Radon Poster Contest

Broward County students rocked a national poster contest on the dangers of radon gas, with help from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County.

The poster “Silent Killer” (left) by Hollywood Academy of Arts and Sciences student John Quintero took first place in Florida and placed in the top 10 nationally.



of



first
10

Luciana Villalobos from Falcon Cove Middle School in Weston took second place in Florida for "Radon" (lower left).

John's schoolmate Isabella Alvarez took third place in Florida for "Protect Our Kids" (right).



"We don't have a big problem with radon in Broward County but the contest really helps to raise awareness," said Anthony Vomero, Environmental Health Administrator at DOH-Broward.

The 2015 contest is taking entries until October 31. [Find more information](#)

Middle Schoolers Create Healthy Meals

Who says kids need a cell phone to do anything? Three Broward County students used their brains and hands to whip up recipes that are delicious and good for you.



The three topped the Healthy Recipe Contest sponsored by the Nutrition and Fitness Task Force of Broward County, which is led by the Florida Department of Health in Broward County and Broward County Public Schools.

BEST DINNER, "Corny Mango Salmon," Lanyah McBride, Dillard High 6-8 Center

MOST CREATIVE, "Quinoa Cakes," Julianna Carbonare, McFatter Technical

BEST LUNCH, "Cheesy Zucchini," Miranda Dunn, Lyons Creek Middle School

[Get the recipes](#)

Our Services and Locations

- * [Breast and Cervical Cancer](#) – Mammograms, screenings, diagnostic testing, medical referrals and education for eligible women
- * [Dental Care](#) – Free or low-cost care for children and for adults in the Ryan White Part A program
- * [Environmental Health](#) -- Inspections, permits and sanitary nuisance complaints
- * [Family Planning](#) -- Exams, counseling, birth control and sterilization for males and females
- * [Hepatitis](#) – Testing, diagnosis and medical referrals
- * [HIV/AIDS Testing](#) – At our locations or in the community
- * [Immunizations](#) – Childhood and adult vaccines
- * [Pharmacy](#) – Medications for our clients and those in the AIDS Drugs Assistance Program and the Ryan White Part A program

- * [Refugee Health](#) – Testing, immunizations and medical referrals
- * [School Physicals](#) – Exams for children entering Broward County public schools for the first time
- * [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) – Testing plus diagnosis and treatment provided by the Broward Wellness Center under contract with DOH-Broward
- * [Tuberculosis](#) – Testing, diagnosis, treatment and directly observed therapy
- * [Vital Records](#) -- Birth and death certificates
- * [Women, Infants and Children \(WIC\)](#) – Breastfeeding support, nutrition counseling, nutritious foods and referrals

HEALTH CENTERS / WOMEN, INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) OFFICES

- Fort Lauderdale HC** | 2421 SW Sixth Avenue
- Edgar P. Mills HC** | 900 NW 31st Avenue, Fort Lauderdale
- Paul Hughes HC** | 205 NW Sixth Avenue, Pompano Beach
- North Regional HC** | 601 W. Atlantic Boulevard, Pompano Beach
- South Regional HC** | 4105 Pembroke Road, Hollywood

WIC-ONLY OFFICES

- Oakland Park WIC Center** | 3756 W. Oakland Park Boulevard
- Coral Springs WIC Center** | 10077 NW 29th Street

OTHER

- Administrative Center** | 780 SW 24th Street, Fort Lauderdale
- 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 #2

DOH-Broward publishes *Pubic Health Broward* to inform our partners and contacts in the community. Thank you for being involved.

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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