

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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Issue #7

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Public Health Broward

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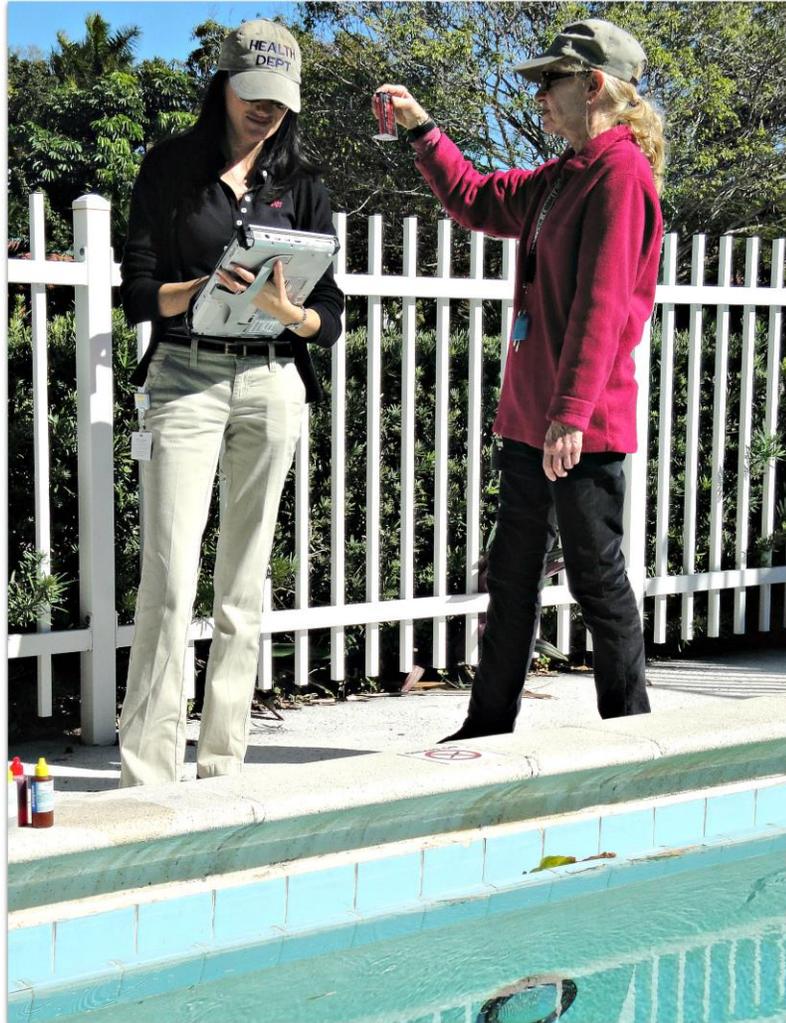
'Pool Safely' project educates cities, pool industry, families

Taking another action to prevent children from drowning, the Florida Department of Health in Broward County has been awarded a \$250,000 federal grant to educate city inspectors, first responders, the swimming pool industry and families about pool safety.

The Department (DOH-Broward) is one of five agencies in the nation chosen for the first drowning prevention grants from the Consumer Products Safety Commission's "Pool Safely" initiative.

"This grant will allow DOH-Broward to do a lot more to make our swimming pools safer and our families more aware about water safety," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward. "Every drowning is a tragedy that is 100 percent preventable."

Drowning is the leading accidental cause of death for children under age 5. Broward, with its 130,000 swimming pools and miles of beaches and waterways, has witnessed child drownings for years. In 2015, six kids under age 5 died by water, says Cassie McGovern, Drowning Prevention Coordinator.



DOH-Broward will use the Pool Safely grant money in three ways:

1. The Environmental Health program, which inspects all public pools in Broward, will educate paramedics, other first responders and local code enforcement inspectors about pool safety requirements.

The goal is to help them detect pools that are in violation or have unsafe conditions, so DOH-Broward can tackle problems before a tragedy occurs, says Environmental Administrator Anthony Vomero. Violations include broken locks on gates, dangerous filter drains and missing safety equipment.

2. The Department will educate swimming pool builders, installers, maintenance companies and supply stores, as well as public pool owners, about safety protections that pools should have, even if they are older and covered by looser rules.

The goal is to encourage the pool community to bring unsafe pools up to standards. For the first time, pool

stores will be asked to promote drowning prevention to families.

3. The Department's Drowning Prevention staff will increase efforts to educate families, homeowner associations, child care providers, large health care organizations and family-strengthening providers.

Their main messages will be to stress that water can pose a danger to children, to describe safety standards for pools and to teach drowning prevention.

The best protections are simple: Have a swim-capable adult watch children every moment they are around water. Install fences, alarms and other barriers to block children from water. Learn to swim.

Also, the project will give away door alarms. Free or discounted swim lessons are available for adults and children.

More information: Cassie.McGovern@flhealth.gov or 954-467-4700, Ext. 5695.

Photo: DOH-Broward staff inspect a condominium pool

Spotlight on ...

Protecting children's teeth with dental sealant

DOH-Broward teams will visit elementary schools



Thousands of Broward school children will have their teeth protected against decay and cavities – for free – as part of a new dental sealant program.

Teams from the Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) are mobilizing to visit over 100 elementary schools this school year, to apply the thin plastic coating to the teeth of children whose parents agree to the treatment.

Numerous studies have shown that dental sealant can prevent cavities for years, especially on biting surfaces of molars where most decay happens. The project is funded by a \$1.27 million

grant from the state Agency for Health Care Administration.

“The school-based mobile sealant program will improve the oral health of children and prevent absenteeism due to tooth pain,” says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward. “We were very, very pleased to receive the grant.”

DOH-Broward has wanted to start the dental sealant program in schools for several years, but the grant made it possible.

As many as six teams of dental hygienists with portable dental chairs will visit schools. All are classified as Title 1 schools, meaning that at least half of students come from low- to middle-income families who qualify for free or reduced-price lunches.

Hygienists will give each child an oral health exam, a cleaning, fluoride rinse and a personal lesson in brushing and flossing. If appropriate, they will paint biting surfaces with the coating, which is tasteless, not visible and free of BPA. The process is simple, painless and takes only minutes to complete.

Kids who need further dental care will be referred to their own dentists or to DOH-Broward's free and low-cost dental clinics.

Not enough children receive dental sealants. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the American Dental Association urge all dentists to offer the protection in their offices, but say less than half do so. Lack of dental insurance is a barrier to receiving sealants.

"We have a lot of children and schools we can serve," says DOH-Broward Dental Administrator Scott Glincher. "We value the partnership with Broward County Public Schools."

More information: 954-467-4700 or www.cdc.gov/oralhealth/publications/faqs/sealants.htm

['Valentine Is MammoTime' -- Free mammograms given in February](#)

Fifty eligible women treated themselves to good health for Valentine's Day by getting free mammograms at a special event by DOH-Broward and Holy Cross Hospital.

"Valentine Is MammoTime" was held Saturday, February 13 at the hospital's Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center.

Women of all ages were eligible for the free breast cancer screenings. They came from all over Broward, including a dozen walk-in clients. The vast majority were uninsured.

The event was so successful that DOH-Broward and Holy Cross plan to do another free mammogram event, possibly for Mother's Day. The two agencies encourage everyone to keep the event in mind if you know of clients, family or friends in the community who may benefit.

In the meantime, women can call year-round to the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program, which serves eligible uninsured women ages 50 to 64, and the Holy Cross Partners in Breast Health (PIBH) program, which serves eligible uninsured women under age 50.

More information: DOH 954-762-3649, Holy Cross 954-294-0582.



Valentine = MammoTime
Your time for
Free Breast Cancer Screenings
Saturday, February 13, 2016
8:00 am to 2:00 pm
Dorothy Mangurian Comprehensive Women's Center
1000 NE 56th Street, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33334
Free mammograms for women of all ages
Call 954-762-3649 for appointment.
Walk-ins accepted
Early Detection is the Best Protection

Holy Cross
Dorothy Mangurian
Comprehensive Women's Center

FLORIDA
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[Telling the community about Zika virus and mosquitoes](#)

[New effort tells moms, doctors, child care staff about breastfeeding](#)

Expectant and new mothers are more likely to embrace breastfeeding when they learn about it from women who have successfully nursed babies in the past. That's the centerpiece of a new campaign by DOH-Broward.

The Department has won a \$50,000 grant to use "peer counselors" in a breastfeeding education program for women giving birth at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale. A second part of the new program will urge doctors and child care facilities to recommend and support breastfeeding among their clients.

"We want to do all we can to encourage breastfeeding because that is a great way to give babies a healthy start in life," says Dr. Paula Thaqi, Director of DOH-Broward. Studies show that children who are breastfed receive many health benefits, including fewer infections, reduced risk of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome, and healthy cholesterol that leads to improved brain development.

DOH-Broward's Women Infants and Children program (WIC) has employed peer counselors for years to help thousands of women learn about lactation, including a strong program in hospitals in south Broward's publicly funded Memorial Healthcare System.

Counselors at Memorial work one-on-one with women before delivery, in the hospital and after childbirth to develop breastfeeding plans, to offer lactation counseling and to assist those returning to work or school when some women stop nursing their babies. The counselors lead support groups for new mothers with breastfeeding difficulties, and lend breast pumps when needed.

The new grant will bring the same successful approach to Holy Cross. The effort supports the hospital's commitment to accomplish 10 breastfeeding practices that would make it the first in Broward County to win the designation as "baby-friendly" hospital.

The grant comes from the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO), which has a national project to reduce breastfeeding disparities among underserved women.

DOH-Broward, in addition to deploying peer counselors at Holy Cross, will use part of the grant to produce a breastfeeding support guide for doctors associated with the hospital. The goal is to persuade more physicians, and their staffs, to recommend breastfeeding and to work with mothers to solve problems that stop them from nursing.

Also, the Department will produce a guide for child care centers so they can do more to help women continue breastfeeding after they return to work, says Esther March Singleton, Breastfeeding Coordinator for WIC. Some operators need education about how to properly give a mother's bottled breast milk to the baby.



[WIC opens new offices in Lauderdale Lakes, Pembroke Pines](#)



The Women Infants and Children program (WIC) has given its 60,000 clients two fresh, new environments in which to receive services, by opening new offices in Lauderdale Lakes and Pembroke Pines.

The office in Lauderdale Lakes (photo at left) is found in a shopping plaza at 4481 North State Road 7, about a mile from the older location that it replaced.

It has space for six nutrition counselors, three breastfeedi

ng counselors, three dietitians and two labs.

Parents visiting the office said the open design of the waiting room and offices was more inviting. The kids wasted no time to start playing at the colorful waiting room table brought from the former office.



The Pembroke Pines office is found in a busy shopping plaza at 8374 Pines Boulevard, just west of University Drive. It replaces a prior location.

Clients waiting there on a recent day said they liked the bright waiting room, big windows for sunlight and the fast service.

The new space has 14 rooms where clients can meet with staff to learn about nutritious foods and breastfeeding.

Information: 954-767-5111.

[Our Programs, Services and Locations](#)

- * [Breast and Cervical Cancer](#) – Mammograms, pap smears, diagnostic testing, medical referrals and education for eligible women
- * [Dating Matters](#) -- Pilot program to prevent teen dating violence
- * [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
- * [Emergency Management](#) -- Planning, training and response to address emergencies
- * [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 Testing](#) – At our locations or in the community
- * [Immunizations](#) – All childhood and adult vaccines
- * [KidCare Outreach](#) -- Recruiting and enrolling families in state-sponsored health coverage for children
- * [Pharmacy](#) – Medications for clients enrolled in AIDS Drugs Assistance Program, Ryan White Part A program and our services
- * [Refugee Health](#) – Testing, immunizations and medical referrals
- * [School Health](#) -- Nursing care and health service in schools
- * [Sexually Transmitted Diseases](#) (STD) – Surveillance and partner services. Testing and treatment provided by the Broward Wellness Center under contract with DOH-Broward
- * [Tobacco Prevention](#) -- Education and advocacy to reduce tobacco usage
- * [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 and WOMEN INFANTS AND CHILDREN (WIC) OFFICES



Fort Lauderdale Health Center | 2421 SW 6th Ave.

Edgar P. Mills Health Center | 900 NW 31st Ave., Fort Lauderdale

Paul Hughes Health Center | 205 NW Sixth Ave., Pompano Beach

North Regional Health Center | 601 W. Atlantic Blvd., Pompano Beach

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

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 #7

Public Health Broward is published by the
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Mission: To protect, promote and improve the
health of all people in Florida through integrated
state, county and community efforts.

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