

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 #9

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Public Health Broward

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[DOH actions help protect the community against Zika virus](#)

The Florida Department of Health in Broward County (DOH-Broward) has conducted numerous prevention activities regarding Zika Virus over the past six months.

Since Zika appeared in Florida in February, DOH-Broward has:

1. Welcomed Gov. Rick Scott and Surgeon General Dr. Celeste Philip to a Zika Roundtable Discussion in August. They briefed community partners and addressed the media (*at right with DOH-Broward Director Dr. Paula Thaqi at left*).



2. Began providing free Zika testing to pregnant women at the Fort Lauderdale Health Center, 2421 SW 6th Ave. No appointment is necessary.

3. Distributed Zika Prevention Kits for pregnant women to obstetrics/gynecology offices, as well as DOH-Broward Women Infants & Children (WIC) offices. Expectant mothers can obtain a kit at the DOH-Broward administration building, 780 SW 24 St., Fort Lauderdale. No appointment is needed.



4. Conducted door-to-door (D2D) outreach to disseminate the “Drain and Cover” mosquito prevention message. Gave D2D training to over 100 staffers, as well as Medical Reserve Corps volunteers, emergency preparedness teams and community partners. *(At left, staffers prepare to make D2D efforts.)*

5. Distributed over one million mosquito protection flyers and palm cards in four languages. The first phase was a general distribution via Broward County Public Schools, homeowner associations, corner stores, supermarkets, libraries and other locations. A second phase targeted census tracts that had been identified as high risk, distributing to beauty parlors, barber shops, corner stores, child care centers and laundromats.

6. Interviewed and collected samples from many individuals as part of an epidemiologic investigation.

7. Closely coordinates with Broward County Mosquito Control about all suspect cases and about county spraying and mosquito trapping within 300 yards of a suspect address.

8. Conducted environmental assessments within 300 yards of suspect addresses, by eliminating standing water, treating standing water with larvicide and distributing informational door hangers and palm cards.

9. Distributed more than 525 cans of repellent to homeless outreach agencies.

10. Conducted a "tabletop" preparedness exercise and also a stakeholder meeting regarding Zika with our municipal, community and response partners.

11. Personally visited all 16 acute care hospitals to provide Zika guidance. Staffers also sent many blast emails with updated information to more than 5,000 Broward County health care providers, urgent care centers, retail clinics and volunteer clinics through our email database.

12. Conducted multiple presentations for health care providers and first responders, and is providing 24/7 consultation to physicians and hospitals.

“The support from DOH Central Office and the partnerships with Broward County Mosquito Control and Broward County Emergency Management have been invaluable,” Dr. Thaqi says.

More Zika information: www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/zika-virus/index.html or 855-622-6735.

For mosquito protection materials: Visit <http://broward.floridahealth.gov> or contact robert.lamendola@flhealth.gov or 954-213-0607.

Spotlight on ...

Florida extends KidCare insurance to more people

Legal immigrant families no longer have to wait 5 years to become eligible

Good news for thousands of families who have been unable to obtain low-cost KidCare health insurance for their children without a five-year delay. The delays have ended.

A new law took effect on July 1 eliminating a five-year waiting period that has long been required before certain legal immigrant families could qualify for KidCare. Now, those families will be able to sign up immediately, simply by showing they are Florida residents.

“We have 48,000 uninsured children in Broward County and thousands of them can benefit,” says Rebecca Miele, Manager of the KidCare Outreach program at DOH-Broward. “This will be a great help to families who really need the coverage.”



State officials estimate that the new rules will make about 17,000 families statewide eligible for programs in KidCare, including state-run Florida Medicaid health coverage for low-income residents.

Families that earn too much to qualify for Medicaid may be able to enroll in the subsidized Healthy Kids program, which costs as little as \$15 to \$20 per month for the entire household of children. Families earning too much to qualify for the subsidized rate in Healthy Kids can still enroll in “full-pay” coverage, which remains less costly than insurance on the private market, Miele says.

The new law benefits several categories of legal immigrants, including:

- Lawful permanent residents and LPR applicants.
- Battered children or children of battered parents.
- Temporary protected status and TPS applicants.
- Lawful temporary resident.
- Deferred action and deferred enforcement departure cases.
- Family unity cases.
- Applicants for asylum, special juvenile status or victim of trafficking status.

Miele encouraged the community to help spread the word about the change to clients, family and friends. Even if a family is not sure whether the new rules apply to them, she encourages them to call KidCare to find out.

More information: 954-467-8737.

[Free mammograms in September for women without good coverage](#)



This back-to-school season, take a test that really matters.

Women with little or no health insurance can get a free mammogram at a special cancer screening event sponsored by DOH-Broward and Broward Health Medical Center.

Free mammograms will be given from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, September 17 at the hospital's Lillian S. Wells Women's Center, 1600 S. Andrews Ave. in Fort Lauderdale.

Women of all ages who do not have coverage for breast cancer screenings are encouraged to take advantage. Medical providers and agencies can refer uninsured women to the event.

Make an appointment: 954-762-3649. Some walk-ins may receive mammograms at the event if space

permits.

[Free back-to-school immunizations run through Aug. 23](#)

The Department's massive back-to-school immunization campaign is in full swing at Lauderhill Mall for another year. The 15-day campaign is expected to vaccinate even more than the record 2,160 children who received their shots last year.

Free vaccinations will be given every weekday through Tuesday August 23 (the second day of school) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Children ages 4 to 18 can get all required school vaccinations without charge. No appointments are needed.

Last year, the "point of dispensing" campaign (nicknamed POD) gave a record 6,283 shots to protect Broward County children.

"The POD is public health at its best," says Director Dr. Paula Thaqi.

A parent or guardian must bring the child's immunization records from the doctor or their school. Children younger or older than ages 4-18 can be vaccinated for free at DOH-Broward's Edgar Mills Health Center in Fort Lauderdale or Paul Hughes Health Center in Pompano Beach.



For a second straight year, the POD will offer families two additional recommended vaccines: human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine to protect adolescents against cancer, and meningococcal vaccine to prevent meningitis.

The POD event included the Immunization and Family Fun Day event on August 13, where more than 500 families received free backpacks and 175 children received free bicycle helmets.

For information: 954-467-4705.

[Creating 'model practices' for nation's public health agencies](#)

Four innovative programs at DOH-Broward won recognition as “model practices” by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) in August. No other public health agency in the country won more than one.

NACCHO says the model practices are effective new tools that other agencies should consider adopting. Last year, DOH-Broward was cited for three model practices and was named the Large Health Department of the Year, NACCHO’s top award.



“This is a big honor to be recognized again this year by a highly respected organization like NACCHO,” says DOH-Broward Director Dr. Paula Thaqi.

The four programs singled out as models for the nation were:

1. Using performance management scorecards to measure, analyze and improve outcomes of every program. The scorecards incorporate standards set for each program and each employee in it.
2. Integrating the planning process for HIV/AIDS Prevention and patient care.
3. Employing scanners to track the flow of clients at the annual back-to-school immunization campaign at Lauderhill Mall. Monitoring the scanner

data (*above right*) helps staffers spot backlogs at various stations in the immunization process, so they can redeploy workers to reduce waiting time for families.

4. Conducting HIV/AIDS education on Broward beaches during spring break, in an effort called Beach Blitz. DOH-Broward and eight partner agencies distributed tens of thousands of condoms, talked to beachgoers about safe-sex practices (*at left*) and surveyed individuals about their behavior.
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[Symposium offers insight into transgender medical issues](#)

At a time when transgender issues are national news, DOH-Broward attracted more than 240 people from across the country to the 6th Annual Transgender Medical Symposium in Fort Lauderdale.

During the two-day conference, physicians and advocates educated the audience about two dozen medical and social issues facing transgender people.



An emotional highlight came during a panel discussion covering types of support that help transgender children and their families, says event organizing Chair Bishop SF Makalani-MaHee, who is Transgender Program Coordinator at DOH-Broward.

The planning team (*above, from left*) included Jodi Reichman of the Pride Center; Christopher Bates, Director of Men's Health at DOH-Broward, and Yahaira Barrientos of Care Resource.

The event, in addition to educating the audience, served to tighten working relationships among planning committee members, Makalani-MaHee says. That will create a stronger group to plan local activities during the 26th Annual Southern Comfort International Transgender Conference coming to South Florida for the first time next month.

Southern Comfort is set for September 29 to October 1 at Bonaventure Resort & Spa in Weston. For information: <http://southerncomfortconference.org> or Alexis@sccatl.org.

[He, too, is No. 2 at DOH-Broward](#)

Organizational Development Director Roland Martinez has been named as the second Deputy Director at DOH-Broward. He joins Judi Elfont as the agency's co-second-in-command.

Martinez continues to oversee Organizational Development, as well as Health Management System, Performance Excellence / Workforce Engagement, Human Resources and Risk Management.

He joined DOH-Broward in 2002.



[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. Also school-based dental sealant 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 #9

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.

Paula THAQI, MD, MPH
Director

Renee PODOLSKY
Director of Community Health

Bob LaMENDOLA
Community Affairs

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