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Media contact: Dianne Shipley, 941-861-2852; cell: 941-302-1058;
Dianne_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us

Health officials urge Haiti relief workers to get vaccinations before departing

Health officials are urging relief workers and others traveling to Haiti to assist with the humanitarian response following earthquake near Port-au-Prince to get recommended immunizations. Conditions in the area remain hazardous, including extensive damage to buildings, roads, and other infrastructure.

Centers for Disease Control (CDC) Recommended Immunizations

- **Routine**: Be sure that you are up to date on vaccines such as measles/mumps/rubella (MMR), diphtheria/pertussis/tetanus (DPT), polio.
- **Hepatitis A** or immune globulin (IG): If your departure is imminent, one dose provides short-term protection.
- **Typhoid**: Injection may be preferable since oral requires a series of pills over several days.
- **Hepatitis B**: If your departure is imminent, one dose may provide some protection.
- **Additional vaccinations** may be required as other diseases emerge as a result of the destruction of vital infrastructure.

The Sarasota County Health Department provides these immunizations at the following locations by appointment:

Sarasota County Health and Human Services, 2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota 941-861-2859

South County Family Health Center, 7820 S. Tamiami Trail, Bldg. B-2, Venice 941-861-3301

The cost for vaccines varies. The health department will be closed Monday, Jan. 18 for the Martin Luther King Day observance. Services will resume Tuesday, Jan. 19.

For more information in how to prepare for departure to Haiti, visit the Centers for Disease Control Web site: <http://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/content/news-announcements/relief-workers-haiti.aspx>.

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