

SCGOV HEALTHnews

Sarasota County Health Department | Florida Department of Health | scgov.net | 941.861.5000 | TV

Nov. 12, 2009

Media contacts:

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

Crystal Pruitt, 941-861-5900; cell 941-650-0695; cpruitt@scgov.net

Scott Ferguson, 941-927-9000, ext. 31148; Scott_Ferguson@sarasota.k12.fl.us

MEDIA NOTE: Media can get interviews and photos from consenting parents at the following locations: Emma Booker Elementary in Sarasota, and at Cranberry Elementary in North Port on Friday, Nov. 13. The Public Information Officer will be on call on Saturday. Please call 941-302-1058 to schedule Saturday interviews. Addresses for all the clinics are provided at the end of this release.

H1N1 flu vaccinations available to children in more age groups later this week

The Sarasota County Health Department (SCHD) in partnership with school district officials will provide H1N1 vaccines to children beginning at **six months of age through grade 5** at vaccine clinics, **3 to 7 p.m., Friday, Nov. 13** at Emma Booker, Tuttle, and Ashton elementary schools in Sarasota, and at Laurel Nokomis school, and Garden and Cranberry elementary schools in southern Sarasota County. H1N1 vaccines will be also be available to pre-school children (beginning at **six months of age**) **through grade 12** on **10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 14** at Laurel Nokomis School, and Cranberry Elementary as well as at the Sarasota County Health Department's Ringling Boulevard and Children's Health Clinic at 17th Street in Sarasota.

All children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian. Middle and high school students who have parental consent forms have the option of getting vaccinated at their school sometime later this month. Health officials say that the Saturday H1N1 vaccination clinics are open to those who want to ensure that their middle school and high school-age children get vaccinated prior to Thanksgiving. The vaccine clinics are open to children who attend public and private schools as well as home-schooled students.

Parents should bring the consent form with them when they accompany their child/children to these vaccination sites. The form may be downloaded from the Sarasota County Health Department and Sarasota County School District web sites, www.sarasotahealth.org and www.sarasotacountyschools.net

Parents with questions can also call the School Health Office, 941-927-9000, ext. 32101 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays.

"Last week, we had an orderly flow of families coming to the vaccine clinics, and immunized almost 3,500 school-age children across the county. Parents are reminded

that the vaccine will be available both days so they can take their time in getting to the clinics,” said Chuck Henry, incident commander for the county’s H1N1 vaccination response. To avoid traffic congestion during school dismissal times, parents are urged to wait until 4 p.m. or later on Friday, or until Saturday to arrive at the selected vaccination sites. Law enforcement officers will be on scene to direct traffic and maintain an orderly flow of vehicles into and out of parking lots.

3 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 13

For Pre-K (beginning at six months) through grade 5 students at the following locations:

Emma E. Booker Elementary School

(Media interviews at this location)

2350 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota

Tuttle Elementary School
2863 8th Street, Sarasota

Ashton Elementary School
5110 Ashton Road, Sarasota

Garden Elementary School
700 Center Road, Venice

Laurel Nokomis School
1900 East Laurel Road, Nokomis

Cranberry Elementary School

(Media interviews at this location)

2775 Shalimar Terrace, North Port

10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 14

For Pre-K (beginning at six months) through grade 12 students at the following locations:

Cranberry Elementary School
2775 Shalimar Terrace, North Port

Laurel Nokomis School
1900 East Laurel Road, Nokomis

Children’s Health Center
Glasser Schoenbaum Human Services Center
1750 17th St., Bldg. E, Sarasota

Sarasota County Health and Human Services
2200 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota

-end-