

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



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Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

February 12, 2015

Dr. Walt Griffin
Superintendent, Seminole County Public Schools
400 E. Lake Mary Blvd.
Sanford, FL 32773

Dear Dr. Griffin,

In the past two weeks, measles has been identified and reported among travelers with unknown or no history of measles vaccinations who visited Florida. "It's important all Seminole County residents make sure they have received the measles vaccination because those who are fully immunized have very little risk of developing the disease," said Health Officer Dr. Swannie Jett. While there are no confirmed cases among Seminole residents at this time, people who may have come into contact with infected individuals are being notified and counseled. The Florida Department of Health in Seminole County continues to work closely with medical providers in an effort to maintain its current level of readiness to identify and respond to any diagnosed cases of measles in Seminole.

The Department of Health is also prepared to work closely with the school district if a measles case is identified within a Seminole school. The focus of this effort will be to limit any potential exposure within the school. Pursuant to its authority in section §1003.22, Florida Statutes, the school district will need to: *(1) identify all students in attendance in the school who are not in compliance with the immunization requirements (either not immunized due to an exemption or without proper documentation of immunization); and (2) make the records of the identified students available to the Florida Department of Health in Seminole. Students identified as not being immunized against the measles will be temporarily excluded from school by the school district until such time as is specified by us.* For measles, **the school district will be required to exclude unimmunized children from attending school for a minimum of 21 days** from the time of exposure or longer should secondary cases occur. Please also be reminded that administrators of schools, preschools, childcare facilities, family daycare homes and specialized childcare facilities for the care of mildly-ill children are **required** to notify the Florida Department of Health in Seminole County of suspected or diagnosed cases of measles immediately by telephone at (407) 665-3266.

Measles is spread through the air by breathing, coughing or sneezing and is highly contagious. The most effective form of protection from this virus is through vaccination. Children should be immunized against measles with the combination measles, mumps and rubella vaccine (MMR) and should receive two doses, the first dose at 12 to 15 months of age, and the second dose at four to six years of age. Vaccines for children are available through doctor's offices or our office located at 400 West Airport Boulevard, Sanford.

Should you have any questions about the information above, please contact my office at (407) 665-3200. Thank you for your continued support and protection of public health in your schools.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc".

Dr. Swannie Jett, DrPH, MSc
Health Officer
Florida Department of Health in Seminole

Florida Department of Health in Seminole County
Dr. Swannie Jett, DrPH., MSc, Health Officer
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