Spring Into Summer!

INSIDE:
- Health Rankings
- Preparing for all Hazards
- Drowning Prevention
- Women’s Health Week
- Immunizations/School Vaccines
- National Volunteer Week
The engagement of our community partners so far this year has been amazing! Multiple partners have aligned their strategic plans with one vision for the betterment of health in our community. During the Month of March Palm Healthcare in conjunction with numerous community partners sponsored the Let's Move Commit to Change Physical Activity Challenge. Proud to announce that over 100 of our employees logged 201,028 minutes of physical activity putting us among the top organizations.

I would also like to congratulate Caroline Hayes Ivanovic and Ernest Sylvain from our Delray Beach Health Center for creating a motivational Let's Move Video that took second place in the Palm HealthCare motivational video contest. This messaging involved many staff members from Delray and inspired all to get on board and move toward good health.

With hurricane season quickly approaching our preparedness staff continues to meet with many partners to assure plans and personnel are in place to serve the health and medical needs of our community. Again this year we will have our nursing staff, volunteers, county staff, Health Care District staff supporting the Special Needs Shelter at the South Florida Fairgrounds. Many other operational needs will be coordinated through the Emergency Operations Center.

We also continue to work at being prepared for all hazards. The killings at Marjorie Stoneham Douglas High School are a grim reminder that anything can happen. Please be keenly aware of your surroundings, maintain family contact information, have rendezvous locations in place should you be separated, and if you see something say something. Together we can make our community the healthiest in the nation.

Alina Alonso, MD
Director

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FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN PALM BEACH COUNTY----COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County recognizes the value in measuring health outcomes and acknowledged the 2018 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps tool released by the University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. This study highlights the many community factors that influence health and uses established data, much of which is available from the department at www.FLHealthCHARTS.com.

The Health Rankings in Florida demonstrated that Palm Beach County has continued to be a leader in the state as it ranked eighth for Health Outcomes (How healthy our county currently is) and seventh in Health Factors (how healthy our county might be in the future based on the many factors that influence health). Palm Beach County continues to be a leader among the 67 Florida counties and continues to rank highest among all large population counties of one million or more people.

“Our engagement with community partners resulted in a four to five-year community health improvement plan also called the CHIP. This plan guides us toward health equity by giving us a good picture of areas needing improvement,” said Department of Health Director in Palm Beach County, Dr. Alina Alonso.

In Palm Beach County, the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is designed to address specific opportunities for improved health that have been identified by the community. The department has partnered with many stakeholders to implement the CHIP and collaborates regularly to track progress.

Adult obesity reduction is one of the focuses of the CHIP and this year’s rankings show that Palm Beach County continues to improve as 22 percent of its adult population is obese versus the State and Federal level of 26 percent.

Mental and Behavioral Health issues are an area that has begun to yield positive results. Palm Beach County has begun aggressively countering the substance abuse issues by adding more and better comprehensive treatment and engaging all community and mental health partners to work toward a positive outcome.

“Palm Health Care Foundation is proud to support the community health improvement plan and this year implemented the Train the Brain program to improve mental health.” Patrick McNamara, President and CEO of Palm Healthcare Foundation, Inc. added, “And we continue to support Let’s Move Palm Beach County by encouraging exercise to better health,” Palm Beach County has improved to 94 percent the number of its residents with access to exercise opportunities, far above the state average of 87 percent.

To explore more health indicators in your county, visit www.FLHealthCHARTS.com. The County Health Rankings & Roadmaps can be found at: www.countyhealthrankings.org.

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Palm Beach (PB)

County Demographics +

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Additional Health Outcomes (not included in overall ranking) +

Health Factors 7

Health Behaviors 5

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PREPARING TO BE PREPARED FOR ALL HAZARDS

It’s never too early to be prepared especially when you live in a tropical climate like Florida. You should always be on your guard for any type of event – both natural and manmade. We experienced an active hurricane season last year especially with Hurricane Irma’s impact on Palm Beach County and other localities across the state. Keep in mind there are other adverse weather makers such as tornadoes, thunderstorms, lightning strikes and many others that can create devastating circumstances for you and your family.

If a disaster does strike in your community, you might not have access to food, water, or electricity for several days. There are three things that you should do to ensure that your family will be ready when the unexpected happens.

1. Prepare an Emergency Kit
2. Make a family Communication Plan
3. Stay Informed

Pack an emergency supply kit. Be sure to include:

At Least a 3-day Supply of Food and Water
- Water – one gallon per person, per day
- Food – foods that are easy to make and won’t spoil, like canned soup, dry pasta, and powdered milk
- Manual can opener
- Basic utensils to prepare and serve meals

Health Supplies
- 3-day supply of all medicines, at a minimum
- Medical supplies like syringes, a walking cane, or hearing aids with extra batteries

Personal Care Items
- Soap
- Toothbrush and toothpaste
- Baby wipes
- Contact lenses or glasses

Safety Supplies
- First aid kit
- Emergency blanket
- Multipurpose tool (that can act as a knife, file, pliers, and screwdriver)
- Whistle
- Electronics
- Flashlight
- Radio (battery-powered, solar, or hand-crank) for updates on the situation
- Cell phone with chargers
- Extra batteries

Documents
- Copies of important documents such as insurance cards and immunization records
- Paperwork about any serious or on-going medical condition
- Your completed family emergency plan, complete with family and emergency contact information.
- You should also include:
  - Extra cash
  - Maps of the area
  - Extra set of car keys and house keys

Take Care of Others
- Every family is unique. You may have emergency needs not included in this list. Also, remember to update your kit according to changing needs of your family.

For Children
- Baby supplies like bottles, formula, baby food, and diapers
- Games and activities for children

For Pets
- Food and Water
  - A 3-day supply of food and water for each pet.
  - A cat or a dog will generally need one gallon for three days.
  - Bowls or bottles
- Manual can opener
- Cleaning Supplies
  - Depending on the pet, you may need a litter box, paper towels, plastic trash bags, grooming items, and household bleach
- Health and Safety
  - Medicines and medical records stored in a waterproof container
  - First aid kit with a pet first aid book

**Make a Family Communication Plan**

You and your loved ones may not be together when a disaster hits. Make a plan for how you will connect to each other. Start by taking the following steps:

- Complete a contact card for each family member. Everyone should keep these cards with them at all times.
- Choose an emergency contact. Memorize the phone number if you can. A friend or relative who lives out of town might be easier to reach in an emergency. During an emergency, family members can text or call this person to let them know that they are safe.
- Make sure all your family members know how to text. Make sure everyone knows how to turn on a cell phone, find the text messaging app, type a message, and send it to a contact.
- Know emergency telephone numbers. Keep them in your cell phone and post them near your home phones. Some good numbers to have are your emergency contact, the fire department, police station, and hospital near you.

There are many ways that authorities share emergency warnings, updates, and safety instructions. Take steps now to make sure you'll get the information you need when an emergency happens.

**Stay Informed**

There are many ways that authorities share emergency warnings, updates, and safety instructions. Take steps now to make sure you'll get the information you need when an emergency happens.

- Check with your local emergency management agency. Find out what kinds of emergencies could happen in your area.
- Find out how to get local emergency alerts. Check with your local health department or emergency management agency to see how they share emergency information and find out the best ways to get disaster information from local authorities. Some communities use:
  - Emergency texts
  - Phone calling systems
  - Digital road signs
  - Social media
  - Sirens and speakers
- Learn about your community’s warning signals. Be able to recognize what the warning signals sound and look like and what you should do when you hear or see them.
- Tune in. Listen to and watch reliable news sources. Keep a weather radio handy.

**Watches and Warnings**

In addition to understanding how you will be informed of potential threats, you need to understand the terms that are used for weather threats.

- A watch means that there is a high possibility that a weather emergency will occur. When a severe storm watch is issued for your area, continue to listen to the radio or television for updates and pay attention to visible weather changes around you.
- A warning means that a weather emergency is already happening, or will happen soon. When you hear a warning, take immediate action.
Drowning Prevention is the Key to Saving Lives

According to the latest figures released by the USA Swimming Foundation, Florida again leads the nation as the state with the most child drownings in 2017. The drownings last year involved children 15 and younger, with 80 percent involving children under the age of 5. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death in children ages 1-4 nationwide. Locally, Palm Beach County had approximately seven drowning related deaths under the age of 18.

The Drowning Prevention Coalition provides vouchers for free/reduced cost swim lessons for qualified resident children ages of 3-12. The purpose of the program is to expose children to swimming lessons who otherwise would not have the opportunity to participate. Vouchers are on a first come first serve basis. To see whether or not your child(ren) qualify please visit the Coalition’s website at www.pbcgov.org/dpc and follow the directions to download and submit an online application.

What to do?
The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission’s Pool Safely campaign urges Florida families to enroll their children in learn-to-swim programs, learn CPR and be diligent in watching children at pools and spas and other bodies of water. Here are some steps to stay safer when spending time in or near the water this year:

- Never leave a child unattended in a pool or spa and always watch your children closely around all bodies of water.
- Designate a water watcher to supervise children in the pool or spa because drowning happens quickly and quietly. This person could be a lifeguard or adult family member and should not be reading, using a smart phone or be otherwise distracted.
- Learn how to swim, and teach your child how to swim.
- Learn how to perform CPR on children and adults.
- Keep children away from pool drains, pipes and other openings to avoid entrapment.
- Ensure any pool and spa you use has drain covers that comply with federal safety standards, and if you do not know, ask your pool service provider about safe drain covers and ask your public pool if their drains are “VGB compliant.”
- Make sure kids wear the jacks in and around natural bodies of water, such as lakes or the ocean, even if they know how to swim. Life jackets can be used in and around pools for weaker swimmers too.

No child is ever water safe; USA Swimming Foundation says. The goal of swim lessons is to make children safer in, on, and around water. Avoid any program that promises to “drown proof” your child. This false guarantee can lead to false security.

- 79% of children in households with incomes less than $50,000 have little-to-no swimming ability.
- 64% of African-American
- 45% of Hispanic
- 40% of white children have little to no swimming ability.
- 10 people drown each day in the United States.
- Formal swimming lessons reduce the likelihood of childhood drowning by 88%.

Feeling the sting of mosquitoes?

Stop mosquitoes from living and multiplying around your home or business.
Protect yourself from mosquito bites and the diseases they carry.

Then it’s time to:

DRAIN STANDING WATER.
DRAIN: Garbage cans, house gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots or any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
DISCARD: Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots and pans, broken appliances and other items that aren’t being used.
EMPTY AND CLEAN: Birdbaths and pets’ water bowls at least once or twice a week.
PROTECT: Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don’t accumulate water.
MAINTAIN: The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use.

COVER YOUR SKIN.
CLOTHING: If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.
REPELLENT: Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, and IR3535 are effective. Use mosquito netting to protect children younger than 2 months.
COVER DOORS AND WINDOWS WITH SCREENS. Keep mosquitoes out of your house. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.
NATIONAL WOMEN’S HEALTH WEEK

National Women’s Health Week kicks off on Mother’s Day, Sunday May 14 and runs through Saturday, May 19, 2018. This week long observance is led by the U. S. Department of Health and Human Services Office on Women’s Health. It’s never too early to work toward being your healthiest you! So now is the time to take control of your health. Take the first step toward the National Women’s Health celebration, and learn what you can do to lead a healthier life at any age.

What Steps can I take for better Health?
To improve physical and mental health you should:

- **Visit a doctor/nurse for a well-woman visit (checkup) preventive screening**
- **Get active**
  - Regular physical activity (exercise) can help lower your risk for many diseases that affect women, including heart disease and stroke. Exercise can also help relieve symptoms of some conditions, such as depression, type 2 diabetes, and high blood pressure. Women need to do different types of physical activities to reach or stay at a healthy weight and build strength and endurance.
  - Getting regular physical activity is one of the best things you can do for your health. Regular physical activity can help: Lower your blood pressure and cholesterol.
  - Lower your risk of dying early
  - Help you lose weight (if you combine it with cutting calories) or keep your weight where it is as you get older
  - Improve depression
  - Improve sleep
  - Lower your risk of diseases such as breast cancer, colon cancer, type 2 diabetes, heart disease, and stroke
- **Eat Healthy**
  - The basics of healthy eating and good nutrition are the same for women and men: Choose healthy foods most of the time and limit the amount of unhealthy food you eat. But women have some unique nutritional needs, especially in different stages of life. Healthy eating can be difficult to fit into your everyday life.
- **Healthy Weight**
  - What is a healthy weight? The Answer is different for everyone. But it’s important to know what a healthy weight is for you. Check out our top questions and answers on weight, weight gain, and weight loss. And talk to your doctor or nurse about your weight goals. Women often gain and lose weight differently, so the steps you need to take to lose weight may be different from the steps someone else needs to take.
- **Pay attention to mental health, including getting enough sleep and managing stress.**
- **Avoid unhealthy behaviors, such as smoking, texting while driving, and not wearing a seatbelt or bicycle helmet.**
Palm Beach County
Childhood Immunization Requirements - School Year 2018-2019

Florida Certificate of Immunization, Form DH 680 is the only document that the schools are permitted to accept as proof of immunization.

**Kindergarten – 12th Grade**
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP) – 5 doses
- Polio (OPV or IPV) – 3, 4 or 5 doses (the last one after age 4 for K)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella – 2 doses (usually given as 2 doses MMR)
- Hepatitis B (Hep B) – 3 doses

**Pre-K Programs (age appropriate doses as indicated)**
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis – (DTaP)
- Polio (OPV or IPV)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella (MMR)
- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)
- Hepatitis B (Hep B)
- Varicella (VZV)

**Kindergarten – 10th Grade**
- Varicella – 2 doses or provider verification of Chickenpox disease history on form DH 680

**11th – 12th Grade**
- Varicella – 1 dose or provider verification of Chickenpox disease history on form DH 680

**7th – 12th Grades**
- Tetanus/Diphtheria/Pertussis booster (Tdap) – 1 dose

Licensed Child Care Facilities and Family Day Care Homes
Children entering or attending Licensed Child Care Facilities and Family Day Care Homes shall have received as many of the following age-appropriate immunizations as are medically indicated in accordance with the current Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule:
- Diphtheria/Tetanus/Pertussis (DTaP)
- Polio (OPV or IPV)
- Measles/Mumps/Rubella
- Varicella
- Haemophilus influenzae type B (Hib)
- Pneumococcal Conjugate (Prevnar) for children age 2 to 59 months
- Hepatitis B (Hep B) (Recommended)

Silver Diamine Fluoride - An Alternate Way to Treat Decay

Silver Diamine Fluoride (SDF) is new to American dentistry although it has been used in other countries for years. It was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in 2014 and became available in April of 2015. Initially approved for reducing tooth sensitivity, clinical trials proved its efficacy to arrest and prevent decay. It is now appropriate and permissible to use SDF accordingly. SDF is a liquid that is applied with a small brush. The potential impact this medicament could have in health access settings is tremendous. It provides an alternate means of treating decay.

SDF stops decay and can be up to 85 -90% effective in eliminating the necessity of a filling. The decayed tooth structure hardens and the lesion does not progress, preventing potential acute dental problems. The missing tooth structure would not have to be replaced. This therapy would be ideal for use in school or Head Start programs, where it is difficult getting children into care after an initial evaluation. It can also be useful in clinic settings or private offices as an alternate or intermediate treatment.

Consider a parent faced with consenting to the risks of general anesthesia for a young child with severe decay. SDF could provide an alternate treatment course that would delay or eliminate the need for general anesthesia. Treated teeth ideally would be monitored over time and the treatment should not be used on abscessed teeth which would require definitive care. Although application has been proven to be safe and effective, there should be understanding by patients or parents that SDF turns decayed tooth structure dark brown or black. Informed consent regarding this effect is a must. This is the only negative factor and can be addressed with subsequent filling of the tooth if desired. The potential of silver diamine fluoride to reduce the dental decay burden in susceptible populations is great and its use should be implemented.
APRIL IS SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASE (STD) MONTH

Florida Health Palm Beach County participated in over 20 events to educate the public on how to stop the spread of STDs during sexually transmitted disease month.

PrideFest, a festival that celebrates the LGBTQ community takes place annually and is a perfect opportunity for event goers to learn about prevention and treatment of STDs. Program personnel provided easy to read pamphlets in English and Spanish.

The STD Program tries to reach out to all in Palm Beach County by giving them the proper information as quickly and as accurately as possible. The main goal is to influence the community to get tested and spread the message to their partners and anyone else that may benefit from a test. Information is provided on available sites to get tested, and likewise encourage participants to visit their local doctors for treatment. The department advocates for participants to feel free to discuss their sexual history, this way individuals can easily access their likelihood of being infected. Complimentary condoms are also provided at every event.

According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) website, “STD’s left untreated can cause increased risk of giving or getting other disease such as HIV. The pain from having this disease can cause long-term pelvic and abdominal pain. The risks of not being able to get pregnant or possible pregnancy complications may also occur.”

Facts: Rates for Gonorrhea, Chlamydia and syphilis have gone up since last year. According to the CDC (Center for Disease Control and Prevention) website, “STD’s left untreated can cause increased risk of giving or getting other disease such as HIV. The pain from having this disease can cause long-term pelvic and abdominal pain. The risks of not being able to get pregnant or possible pregnancy complications may also occur.”

Kick Butts Day 2018: Informing, Exposing and Kicking Butts!

Kick Butts Day is a national day of youth advocacy, sponsored by the Campaign for Tobacco Free Kids, encouraging youth to reject the tobacco industry’s deceptive marketing tactics and remain tobacco free. Tobacco companies spend approximately $558.8 million annually to aggressively market their product in Florida. Each day across the United States more than 3200 youth 18 years or younger try their first cigarette while an additional 2100 youth and young adults become daily smokers.

Students Working Against Tobacco (SWAT) youth across Florida chose the theme “Inform, Expose and Kick Butts!” for the 23rd annual event. Roosevelt Middle School SWAT hosted a school wide Kick Butts Day pep rally with over 900 youth and adults in attendance. Ciggy Butts (the tobacco prevention mascot) provided an opportunity for select students to participate in a “boxing” match. Each student received three opportunities to take down Ciggy. The idea was to demonstrate how each punch was stand against the industry and collectively they are able to take down Big Tobacco. SWAT youth work to empower, educate and equip Florida’s youth to revolt against Big Tobacco.

To learn more and get involved visit www.swatflorida.com.
HONORING VOLUNTEERS

National Volunteer Week is observed April 16 thru April 21, 2018. National Volunteer Week is a great time to get involved and give back. It is also a great time to show your appreciation for your dedicated volunteers.

This annual celebration is observed in many countries, to promote and show appreciation for volunteerism and volunteering. Volunteers are the heart and soul of our organization. Without their hard work and dedication, we could not do the work we do every day to help our clients and communities we serve.

The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County had nearly 1,000 volunteers during fiscal year 2016-2017. In Palm Beach County, volunteer’s time and talents have contributed over 15 million dollars in value contributions to the Florida Department of Health. Our volunteers range from licensed health care professional to support staff. These volunteers give back through activities by providing medical services, greeting clients, assisting in day to day office duties, mentoring teens, serving on initiatives and spearheading fundraising drives. These opportunities also help volunteers enhance their personal well-being and develop meaningful relationships all while making an impact in the community.

LET’S MOVE CAMPAIGN

The Let’s Move initiative is a national campaign that was started in 2010 by First Lady, Michelle Obama. The main objective was to reduce childhood obesity in the United States. Palm Healthcare Foundation, Inc. started the Let’s Move initiative in Palm Beach County in 2012, since the statistics showed that children born in 2000 or later were at higher risk for obesity-related health issues.

The Let’s Move: Commit to Change Physical Activity Challenge focuses on physical activity, nutrition, and healthy behaviors. The challenge takes place every year throughout the month of March. Cities, businesses and community groups form teams and commit to at least 30 minutes of physical activity every day and log their minutes online. The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County had over 100 participants this year and logged a total of 201,028 minutes of physical activity. This year a video contest was added to the challenge and the Delray Beach Health Center received the 2nd place award. Congratulations Delray! They are committed to leading a healthy lifestyle.

The partners for Let’s Move are PNC Bank and CBS 12. This year over 32 million minutes were logged for this challenge in Palm Beach County far surpassing last year’s number of seven million minutes. The Florida Department of Health in Palm Beach County will continue to encourage employees to support the overall goal of Let’s Move by including physical activity in their daily lives after the challenge has ended. Let’s Move!

Reference
Services Provided

Florida Health Palm Beach County is a service organization responsible for the health of over a million residents in Palm Beach County.

The many and varied core programs include disease prevention and control, environmental public health, school health and health education. In addition, the department shares responsibility for primary care of the medically indigent population of the county with the Health Care District of Palm Beach County and private sector by providing millions of services annually through six health centers.

Florida Health Palm Beach County has served as the model agency for the State of Florida and many other states throughout the country. For over 60 years it has led the way with innovative programs that include:

- Immunizations for children
- Parental education in child care from pregnancy to birth and beyond
- Monitoring the land, air and water
- Monitoring and testing for potential epidemics

The future holds many unknowns, but Florida Health Palm Beach County will be there to serve your needs.

HEALTH ACCESS DIVISION (561) 671-4036
EPIDEMIOLOGY & COMMUNICABLE DISEASE (561) 671-4184
ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (561) 837-5900
COMMUNITY & SCHOOL HEALTH (561) 671-4161
MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH (561) 671-4140
STD/TB (561) 803-7362
IMMUNIZATIONS (561) 840-4568
NUTRITION SERVICES (561) 671-4089
PUBLIC HEALTH PREPAREDNESS (561) 671-4014
PREVENTIVE MEDICINE/PUBLIC HEALTH RESIDENCY PROGRAM (561) 837-5165
DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH (561) 837-5560
VITAL STATISTICS (561) 837-5841
WIC (561) 357-6007

APPOINTMENT LINE 1-855-GET-APPT (438-2778)
(561) 625-5180

Health Centers

Delray Beach Health Center
225 South Congress Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33445
(561) 274-3100

C.L. Brumback Health Center
38754 State Road 80
Belle Glade, FL 33430
(561) 983-9220

Jupiter Auxiliary Health Center
6405 Indiantown Road
Jupiter, FL 33458
(561) 746-6751

Lantana/Lake Worth Health Center
1250 Southwinds Drive
Lantana, FL 33462
(561) 547-6800

Northeast Health Center
851 Avenue “P”
Riviera Beach, Florida 33404
(561) 803-7300

West Palm Beach Health Center
1150 45th Street
West Palm Beach, FL 33407
(561) 514-5300

Florida Health Palm Beach County
Main Phone Number
(561) 840-4500