

Mission:

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



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

June 13, 2019

Dear Parent or Guardian:

Your child may have been exposed to a confirmed case of Hepatitis A. The health department is working with the school to implement prevention measures including:

- education on the importance of hand hygiene,
- environmental cleaning,
- staff education

Please review your child's vaccination records to ensure they have received the recommended hepatitis A vaccine. The vaccine is given as a two-dose series with six months between doses and can be administered as early as 12 months of age. The hepatitis vaccine is not required for school entry; therefore, your child may or may not have received it during their routine childhood immunizations.

If your child does not have two doses of vaccine, they can receive the vaccine from their pediatrician or from the health department located at 10841 Little Road, New Port Richey, FL 34654. An appointment is not necessary for immunizations and there is no cost to you if you bring this letter with you. You may also call the clinic at (727) 861-5250. Parents are encouraged to check their own vaccination records, as well.

Hepatitis A is caused by a virus. Touching objects contaminated with feces (poop) of an infected person and then touching the mouth or food is a common way that this infection is spread. Hepatitis A symptoms generally begin about 28 days (range 15 to 50 days) after a person is infected, and include:

- Fever
- Fatigue
- Abdominal pain
- Nausea
- Vomiting
- Dark urine
- Clay colored stools
- Jaundice (yellowing of the skin or eyes)

If your child becomes ill with the above symptoms, keep your child home from school and call your healthcare provider. You can show your health care provider this letter for reference.

In addition to vaccination, the most important measure for preventing spread of many illnesses is good hand washing. Everyone should wash their hands with soap and water for at least 20 seconds after bathroom visits and before handling food or eating. Hand sanitizers are not effective against hepatitis A.

If you or your doctor have any questions, contact the DOH-Pasco Epidemiology Program at (352) 521-1450, option 2

Where Do I Get Vaccinated?

1st option

Visit the Pasco County Health Department

10841 Little Road

New Port Richey, FL 34654

(727) 861-5260

**No appointments needed

Monday through Friday

8:00AM to 5:00PM

2nd option

Visit your primary doctor