



City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, www.miamibeachfl.gov

MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT, Tel: 305.673.7575

Tonya Daniels, E-mail: tonyadaniels@miamibeachfl.gov

Melissa Berthier, E-mail: melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Free Flu Shots Available at All Miami Beach Public Schools

— *A Partnership Between the City of Miami Beach, Borinquen Health Centers, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The Children's Trust* —

Miami Beach, FL – According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), at least 105 children have died from the flu so far this season as influenza rates among kids and young adults are higher than average in comparison to recent years. This is the highest rate of child flu deaths at this point in the season since 2004, when the CDC began keeping records and with the exception of the 2009 flu pandemic.

As the flu season continues, the City of Miami Beach is partnering with Borinquen Health Centers, Miami-Dade County Public Schools and The Children's Trust to provide flu vaccines to students in all six of Miami Beach's public schools on March 16 through March 20, 2020. Participating schools include Miami Beach Senior High School, Miami Beach Nautilus Middle School, Miami Beach Fienberg Fisher K-8, Miami Beach South Pointe Elementary, North Beach Elementary and Biscayne Beach Elementary.

"Flu season is also still ongoing and everyone should take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their loved ones – which means getting a flu vaccine and following good sanitary practices," said Mayor Dan Gelber.

The City of Miami Beach is committing up to \$15,000 for this initiative, and with a completed parental consent form, flu shots will be administered during the school day with a \$0 copayment to recipients.

"When it comes to the health and well-being of our students, Miami-Dade County Public Schools prioritizes prevention measures and preparation," said Superintendent of Schools Alberto M. Carvalho. "We are grateful to our municipal and community partners for providing resources so students in Miami Beach can be protected against the flu."

Borinquen Medical Centers, the city's public-school health provider, will be responsible for administering the vaccines to students on-site to those who have not yet received their flu shot this season.

"Borinquen Medical Centers is committed to and takes pride in providing quality care and services to our students and families," shared Dr. Deborah Gracia, Chief Medical Officer at Borinquen Medical Centers. "The health and well-being of our students is of upmost importance to us."

“The Children's Trust supports the collaborative partnership efforts between the City of Miami Beach and the Borinquen Health Centers to provide flu vaccinations for children attending Miami Beach schools through Trust-funded school-based health centers,” added Sabine Dulcio, Associate Director of Programs at The Children’s Trust. “This partnership positively impacts the health and well-being of these children by preventing and reducing children's risks of flu and avoiding absences from school.”

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