



Jeb Bush  
Governor

M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D.  
Secretary

---

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
April 21, 2006

Contact: Fernando R. Senra  
(850) 245-4111

### **DOH Encourages Floridians to Know Status of Their Vaccinations**

**TALLAHASSEE**— The Florida Department of Health (DOH) advises all Floridians to become aware of their immunity status for the measles, mumps, rubella (MMR) vaccine in light of the recent mumps outbreak in the Midwest.

“We encourage everyone to know the status of their vaccinations in order to ensure safety and resistance against many diseases, including mumps,” said DOH Secretary M. Rony François, M.D., M.S.P.H., Ph.D. “Proper routine vaccinations help protect individuals and raise their levels of immunity. While vaccines are not 100 percent effective, they do offer the highest form of protection against harmful infections and diseases.”

Mumps is a contagious disease spread by mucus or droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person, usually when such a person coughs or sneezes. Transmission can also occur if an infected individual touches an object with unclean hands and someone else touches the same surface and then rubs their eyes, mouth or nose. Transmission of this type reinforces the importance of healthy habits, including proper hand washing, keeping fingers away from one’s eyes, nose or mouth, and sneezing and coughing into a tissue or one’s sleeve.

Any individual who experiences the following symptoms: fever, headache, muscle aches, tiredness and loss of appetite followed by the onset of parotitis (swollen and tender salivary glands under the ears- on one or both sides), should immediately contact their primary health care physician by phone and explain their symptoms in order to receive proper instructions. Those individuals should also avoid contact with others until the cause of their symptoms is certain.

DOH promotes and protects the health and safety of all people in Florida through the delivery of quality public health services and the promotion of health care standards. For additional information, visit DOH’s Web site at [www.doh.state.fl.us](http://www.doh.state.fl.us), click on the diseases and conditions tab on the left-hand side and select mumps from the list. To check on a vaccination status, contact your primary health care physician or your local CHD.

###