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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH *FLORIDA SHOTS* PROGRAM COMES CLOSER TO GOAL

-Updated information in database allows for more efficient vaccination tracking-

TALLAHASSEE—The Florida Department of Health (DOH) and the Florida State Health Online Tracking System (SHOTS), is proud to announce that over 1,000,000 immunization records have been added to the state system that tracks the immunization history of Florida's children. The newly uploaded files contain the records for children who receive vaccinations from the United States Air Force (Florida Air Force bases), Pediatric Associates of Orlando and the Pediatric Associates Professional Association in South Florida. This brings the doses administered in the system to 45,000,000 for over five million individual patient records.

"This ongoing electronic file upload process is just the beginning of data-sharing partnerships that will help Florida meet the Healthy People 2010 goal of enrolling 95 percent of children age six and under in the registry with at least two vaccinations recorded in the system," said Florida SHOTS Director Susan Lincicome. "Our entire team has worked very hard in reaching out to communities in terms of the importance of updating our system. This more efficient process of updating data ultimately benefits children, parents and providers by making these records available to any health care provider who is enrolled in Florida SHOTS."

Florida SHOTS is a statewide, computerized immunization registry that makes it easier for physicians and parents to keep track of a child's immunization history. This centralized database not only allows health care providers to view a child's records, but also allows them to provide updates, ensuring that the most comprehensive immunization histories exist in one location. Florida SHOTS also helps doctors keep children's immunizations on schedule by providing reminders of when shots are due, helps prevent unnecessary duplication of shots that children may already have, and provides automatic forecasting of immunizations due based on a child's immunization history and age.

Another step toward updating the data in the system is attributed to the Suwannee River Area Health Education Center (SRAHEC), which has taken on a project of utilizing graduate students in the University of Florida (UF) Masters in Public Health (MPH) Program to help doctors in rural counties in the Suwannee River region enter data into Florida SHOTS.

"Our thanks go out to the SRAHEC for participating in this initiative and to the Florida Rural Health Association for facilitating communication about the registry," said FDOH Deputy State Health Officer Bonita Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A.

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 . For more information on Florida SHOTS, call 1-877-888-SHOT (7468) or visit www.flshots.com .

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