

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

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November 19, 2018

## Florida SHOTS Notice to Parents/Guardians

Vaccines prevent serious diseases, but only if administered on the proper schedule. Keeping track of the immunizations your child has received and when they received them can be hard, especially if more than one doctor has administered them.

Doctors in Florida recognize the value of, and use, the Florida State Health Online Tracking System, or Florida SHOTS, a secure immunization computer system. The information provided by one doctor or clinic becomes available to any other authorized doctors or clinic you might see in the future.

Even more important, your child's immunization history is examined and evaluated against medically developed and adopted immunization schedules every time your child's record is accessed to ensure that those schedules are being followed, and Florida SHOTS alerts your child's health care provider of current or approaching requirements for upcoming vaccines.

The goal of Florida SHOTS is to establish a complete, accurate, secure immunization medical record for all patients, especially children, that is easily accessible to any medical provider in "real time."

According to our records, you, or someone on behalf of your child, requested "opt out" or non-participation status in the Florida SHOTS system. At that time, we agreed to maintain a higher than usual degree of privacy where your or your child's immunization record was concerned, sharing the data only with your child's principle care provider and no other authorized users.

Recently, the Department of Health reviewed this policy and has determined that any immunization records for those children whose parent or guardian requested non-participation status in Florida SHOTS will be deleted from the system. In the future, if an excluded child's name is searched, even by your child's own provider, a message will be displayed stating **"The parents or guardian of this child have requested non-participation in Florida SHOTS, no immunization information is available on this individual."**

Before we finalize our actions, we are requesting that you reconsider this election and consider revoking the non-participation status you requested, so that your child can be better protected from vaccine preventable diseases. Please consider the following points and then complete and return the enclosed form within the next 90 days.

## Florida SHOTS Notification and Opt Out Decision

### ➤ How Does Florida SHOTS Help You?

1. Keeps track of all immunizations so that your child does not miss any or get too many
2. Sends reminders when your child need shots
3. Gives you a copy of the shot record from the doctor
4. Provides proof of immunization necessary to enroll in child care, school, college, or a new job
5. Hospitals have access to a child's shot history if an emergency arises

### ➤ How Does Florida SHOTS Help Your Health Care Team?

Doctors, nurses, health plans, and public health agencies use the system to:

1. See which shots are needed
2. Remind parents about shots needed by child
3. Prevent disease in your community
4. Help with record-keeping

### ➤ Can Schools or Other Programs See Florida SHOTS?

Yes, but this is limited. Schools, child care, and other agencies allowed under Florida law may:

1. See which shots children in their programs need
2. Make sure children have all shots needed to start child care or school

### ➤ What Information Can Be Shared in Florida SHOTS?

1. Patient's name, sex, and birth date
2. Limited information to identify patients
3. Details about a patient's shots

Information entered in the system is treated like other private medical information. Misuse of system information can be punishable by law.

## Florida SHOTS Notification and Opt Out Decision

Currently, your child's immunization record is only available to their current immunization provider. In an upcoming Florida SHOTS release, all vaccine records of children whose parent(s) or guardian signed the "Florida SHOTS Notification and Opt Out Form" will be permanently deleted from the system.

If you **DO** want your child's shot records in the system, you must return this form indicating: "Yes, I want my child's shot record available in Florida SHOTS."

If you **DO NOT** want your doctor's office to share your immunization information with other Florida SHOTS users, you must return the enclosed form indicating: "No, I do not want my child's record available in Florida SHOTS."

I understand that by checking NO that:

- The Florida Department of Health forms required for school and day care entry will not be available from Florida SHOTS.
- My child's doctor won't be able to access my child's immunization records through Florida SHOTS but only through the doctor's local electronic or paper health records.
- If I change my child's doctor, for any reason, my child's immunization records will not be available to the new doctor from Florida SHOTS.
- My child may require additional immunizations if their record is not available.

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Yes, I want my child's shot record available in Florida SHOTS.

No, I do not want my child's records available in Florida SHOTS.

Your Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print) (Last) (First) (MI)

Your Child's Date of Birth: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_ Your Child's Sex: M F (Please Circle One)

Mother's Maiden Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Child's County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Requesting Parents Name (Please Print): \_\_\_\_\_

Requesting Parent's Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Requesting Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**If this form is not received within 90 days, your child's shot records will be permanently deleted from the Florida SHOTS system.**

If you have any questions regarding this form, please call: 1-877-888-7468, Option 2

**Return this form to:**  
Florida SHOTS  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-11  
Tallahassee, Florida 32399