

HCMA position statement on immunizations

Although measles was declared eliminated in the United States in the 2000s, there have been several recent and significant measles outbreaks in our country. According to the Florida Department of Health, Florida now has ten reported cases of measles with nine reports in Broward County – all of which are children.

Immunizations are an important form of primary prevention. Contradictions that weaken vaccination requirements and misinformation that erodes confidence in vaccines have caused rates of measles vaccination among young children to fall substantially. Measles can be dangerous, especially for babies and children, with serious cases leading to blindness, brain infection, and even death.

The HCMA concurs with the Centers for Disease Control, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the World Health Organization that vaccines are very effective in protecting children and preventing complications caused by serious diseases.

The HCMA recommends that parents talk with their pediatrician or family physician about vaccination benefits, perceived risks, and what is best for their child.

References: <https://www.floridahealth.gov/diseases-and-conditions/measles/index.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p1123-measles-threat.html>

<https://www.cdc.gov/measles/about/parents-top4.html>