

# SCgovHEALTHnews

Sarasota County Health Department | Florida Department of Health  
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## Back to School preparations: Ensure your child has health insurance

Local health officials remind parents that in addition to immunizations, pre-school and school age children should receive routine medical care. This allows health problems that may affect school performance to be addressed in their earliest treatable stage. The Florida KidCare program was established in 1998 to assist families who lack insurance in getting low-cost quality health insurance for their children.

“Now is the time to enroll children as you are making other preparations for your child’s return to school on Aug. 18, said Virginia Brockman, Sarasota County Health Department’s KidCare Coordinator. We know that affordable, quality medical insurance is so important for kids to stay healthy. You can take your kids to the doctor instead of the emergency room when they are sick.”

Health officials say that coverage begins once eligibility has been determined and the full premium amount has been received. The amount of each premium is based on household size and monthly income. Most families pay either \$15 or \$20 per family per month; however, some families may pay more.

Families are only required to submit one application, which covers all KidCare programs. Applications for enrollment are available at the Sarasota County Health Department, 2200 Ringling Boulevard in Sarasota by mail by calling 941-861-2813. Information about the KidCare program will also be available at back-to-school events such as the Ready, Set, Grow! Ready for Kindergarten Family Fair event on Saturday, July 26 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Robart’s Arena, 3000 Ringling Boulevard in Sarasota, and at the Back to School Resource Fair at Heron Creek Middle School, 6501 W. Price Boulevard in North Port on Saturday, Aug. 9 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Families are encouraged to apply on line at [www.Floridakidcare.org](http://www.Floridakidcare.org). Families who apply on line get enrolled faster because their applications tend to be more complete, which reduces the wait time for missing information or income documentation. For more information, call the Sarasota County Health Department at 941-861-2813.

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