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ATTENTION
We are currently accepting submissions for our next newsletter!
For more info, e-mail:
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Safe Sleep Is Essential For Babies
By Dr. Katherine Friedebach, Chief Medical Officer of Sunshine Health

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Putting baby on “back to sleep” for the first year is the No. 1 rule for Safe Sleep. It’s a simple thing that makes a big difference.

Most parents have heard this rule, but they need to know why it’s so important and to share it with every single person who helps with baby.

There are 3,500 sleep-related deaths of babies each year in the U.S. and some 22% of mothers report not placing baby on his or her back, according to the CDC.

Older generations didn’t always put babies to sleep on backs – so whether it’s grandparents, a neighbor, or childcare, make sure they know to always put baby to sleep on his or her back until he or she is 1 year old.

Some babies fuss on their backs, but quickly adapt. Talk to your pediatrician if fussing continues.

At about 3 to 6 months, babies will be able to roll off their backs but may not be able to roll back over. You will need to gently help them back over. Never swaddle or use items to restrict movement at this stage. They need their arms and legs free to roll back over.

While “Back to Sleep” is the No. 1 Rule of Safe Sleep, there are others – including crib tips, clothing guidelines and more. Here are some sources:

- Laying Your Baby Down to Sleep, from the Sunshine Health Krames Online Library
- Ways to Reduce Sleep-Related Deaths, from the National Institutes of Health
- How to Keep Baby Safe When Sleeping, from the CDC

Go to SunshineHealth.com to learn more.
September is Healthy Aging Month!

During the month of September, we take this time to promote healthy lifestyles for all ages, including our older population. We find that as we age and our bodies change many concepts stay the same: eating healthy foods, being active, quitting tobacco, and visiting your doctor regularly are things we all need to do to continue living a healthy life. What are some things we should be aware of?

Your vision can change with age.

According to the National Eye Institute (2019), “more than 40 million Americans are 65 or older” and as the population grows, so can the rate of eye diseases. In addition to your regular check-ups with your physician, it’s important that you receive comprehensive eye exams on a regular basis. Catching diseases early can make a difference. For resources on eye health click here.

Some brain changes are normal.

According to the CDC (2020) “Normal aging may mean slower processing speeds and more difficulty with multitasking, but routine memory, skills, and knowledge are stable and may even improve with age. It’s normal to occasionally forget recent events such as where the keys were last placed or the name of the person you just met.” For more information on healthy aging and brain health click here.

Did you know? The Consortium For A Healthier Miami-Dade’s Elder Issues Committee was established in 2006 to promote and encourage elder community members to live a safe and healthy lifestyle.

For more information click here.

Infant and Maternal Mortality Awareness

Maternal Mortality and Infant Mortality are hot topics in the field of public health as they continue to rise despite recent advances in the Maternal Child Health sectors. Although 60% of Maternal deaths are preventable (CDC, 2019), Black women in Miami-Dade County had a maternal mortality rate that was 4 times higher than White women in 2018. A similar trend is seen in infant mortality, where the Black rate is up to 3 times higher than White infants (FLHealthCharts, 2018).

What are some ways that providers can help improve these statistics?

- Provide culturally sensitive and appropriate care both pre- and postnatally.
- Increase access to quality and affordable prenatal and infant care.
- Appropriate care for high-risk individuals.
- Continuation of care after delivery.

Physical Activity is Key to Move Your Way

Move Your Way is the promotional campaign for the second edition of the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. The Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans provides evidence-based guidance to support Americans maintain or improve their health through physical activity. The campaign’s goal is to assist people live healthier lives through increased physical activity. One of the key tips to staying healthy is including physical activity in your daily life. But did you know it can also help you feel better? Physical activity boosts your mood, sharpens your focus, reduces your stress, and improves your sleep.

Over time, physical activity can help you live a longer and healthier life. It helps to lower your risk of diseases like Type 2 Diabetes and some cancers, controls your blood pressure, and it also helps you stay at a healthy weight. It is also important to keep in mind there is a variety of ways to stay physically active. It is important to remember that any physical activity even activities that do not feel like exercise count too. To learn more, please visit https://health.gov/moveyourway.
Join us as we present information on how to facilitate conversations on health equity in times of change and community challenges. From the COVID-19 public health emergency and its impact on minority communities to the nationwide realization that not all is fair or equitable in communities. We will share with you best practices, lessons learned, and strategies for leveraging partnerships to improve leadership and organizational thinking to begin those tough conversations towards lasting change and equity.

Healthy Happens Here Webinar Series

The Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County, Office of Community Health and Planning is proud to present a new webinar series titled “Healthy Happens Here”. Three events will be held each month and will cover a variety of topics including nutrition, mental health, tobacco cessation, and chronic disease self-management. Register for the sessions that you would like to attend. Feel free to sign up for one or all of the sessions -but each session has a different link, so be sure to click on each one that you are interested in attending. Please feel free to share with your partners and general public as it is open to everyone!

Upcoming September Sessions

- SEPTEMBER 11, 2020
  Women’s Health and Fitness

- SEPTEMBER 25, 2020
  Tobacco and Pregnancy: What You Need to Know

- SEPTEMBER 30, 2020
  Intro to Cholesterol

If you have any questions you can e-mail Robert Ward (Robert.Ward@Flhealth.gov), Bryanna McDaniel (Bryanna.McDaniel@FLHealth.Gov), or Candice Schottenloher (Candice.Schottenloher@flhealth.gov).

Join the Consortium For A Healthier Miami-Dade!

The Consortium for a Healthier Miami-Dade was established in 2003 by the Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade County to address the increasing rate of chronic disease in the community. The goals of the Consortium are to:

- Integrate planning and assessment processes to maximize partnerships and expertise of the community in accomplishing its goals.
- Increase the percentage of adults and children who are at a healthy weight.
- Build and revitalize communities so people can live healthy lives.
- Increase access to resources that promote healthy behaviors.

Membership is free and open to all individuals who support the vision, mission and goals of the Consortium. To become a member and learn more visit our website www.healthymiamidade.org