

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS
State Surgeon General & Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 17, 2013

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JOHN LOVE ELEMENTARY RECEIVES ASTHMA –FRIENDLY SCHOOL AWARD FROM FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

JACKSONVILLE - The Florida Department of Health (DOH) in Duval County, is honoring John Love Elementary School for working with THE PLAYERS Center / Wolfson Children's Hospital, the American Lung Association and Duval County Public Schools to create a safe and healthy environment for students with asthma. Staff at John Love Elementary completed professional development courses in asthma management, formed a team dedicated to this important issue, established clear processes to identify students with asthma, ensure access to medications, increased awareness among all school staff and students, and took other actions to create a safe and healthy environment, earning them a Platinum Level Asthma-Friendly School Award.

John Love Elementary is the first school in Duval County to receive the award, and one of the first schools in the state. Participating schools are being recognized and awarded as part of Asthma Awareness Month this May.

Schools that earn the Asthma-Friendly School Recognition are better equipped to support students with asthma. Staff at the school completed the Asthma 101 program provided by the American Lung Association, with support from the Florida Department of Health's Asthma Program. The Asthma 101 program provides school faculty and staff with the knowledge to support students with asthma and prevent and respond to asthma emergencies. Specific topics include basic asthma information, identifying and controlling asthma triggers in the classroom setting, understanding asthma medications and Asthma Action Plans, and recognizing the warning signs of an asthma episode or attack. Asthma can be controlled by taking medication and knowing what causes asthma episodes. It is also important to avoid asthma triggers and remove asthma triggers from the environment.

THE PLAYERS Center / Wolfson Children's Hospital, the American Lung Association, Duval County Public Schools and the Department will present the recognition in conjunction with the Florida Asthma Coalition, a statewide group that works to improve asthma outcomes and reduce associated costs, at 9:00 am on May 17, 2013

For more information on how your school can enroll in the program, visit

<http://www.doh.state.fl.us/Environment/medicine/Asthma/schools.html>

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