

August 29, 2017

## **DOH-PINELLAS SCREENS HPV DOCUMENTARY “SOMEONE YOU LOVE” ON SEP. 26**



### **CONTACT:**

Maggie Hall, PIO  
[Margarita.Hall@FLHealth.gov](mailto:Margarita.Hall@FLHealth.gov)  
(727) 824-6908 (media only)

The Florida Department of Health in Pinellas County (DOH-Pinellas) is hosting the first of many “Healthy Community Conversations” on Tuesday., Sep. 26, at St. Petersburg College (SPC), Douglas L. Jamerson Midtown Center, 1300 22<sup>nd</sup> St. S., St. Petersburg. The collaborative event, provided by numerous community partners, will highlight the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) with a no-cost screening of the feature length documentary, “Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic,” beginning at 6 PM. A panel discussion featuring experts in the medical field—Dr. David Berman, Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital, and Dr. Greg H. Savel, Myrtle Avenue Pediatrics—will follow the screening.

Florida is one of only 11 states that has a sponsored public screening license, meaning the screenings are provided at no cost to the public thanks to a private donor. “The film is that powerful and someone felt this message needed to get out,” says Andrea Peaten, Community Immunization Liaison at DOH-Pinellas. The film provides viewers with an in-depth look in to the lives of 5 women who have been affected by HPV. This life-changing documentary sheds much needed light on the “risks, myths, problems, politics, misconceptions and hard truths about the widespread epidemic.”

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HPV infections are so common that nearly all men and women will get at least one type of HPV at some point in their lives. Florida is among the highest in the country for HPV-related cancers and DOH-Pinellas, which also heads the Pinellas HPV Partnerships Council, sees this as an opportunity to increase HPV vaccination rates in boys and girls and advance efforts to prevent HPV-related cancers here in Pinellas County.

The department is one of many community partners involved in the creation of the “Healthy Community Conversations.” These partners include Gwendolyn Reese of Peaten Reese Peaten Consulting, Terri Lipsey-Scott of the African American Museum, Frank Jurkovic of St. Petersburg College, Thelma Bruce of the National Council of Negro Women, Carol Alexander of Next Step Pregnancy Center, Veatrice Farrell, Deuces Live Main Street, and Maisha Kambon, M.D. The group will host several community conversations and screenings at no cost to the public. The next event will be held in late November at SPC’s Gibbs Campus.

The film is 90 minutes in length and the panel will take questions after the showing until 8 PM. To register, visit <https://healthyconversationssyl.eventbrite.com>. Only 75 seats are available.

For more information about the “Someone You Love: The HPV Epidemic” documentary, visit [www.hpvepidemic.com](http://www.hpvepidemic.com)

For information about DOH-Pinellas, go to [www.PinellasHealth.com](http://www.PinellasHealth.com) or follow us on Twitter [@HealthyPinellas](https://twitter.com/HealthyPinellas).

-end-

**About the Florida Department of Health**

The department, nationally accredited by the [Public Health Accreditation Board](#), works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts.

Follow us on Twitter at [@HealthyFla](#) and on [Facebook](#). For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.FloridaHealth.gov](http://www.FloridaHealth.gov).