

Dr. Martin Karp, Board Member

SUBJECT: SCHOOL BOARD ENDORSEMENT OF MAY 2016 AS NATIONAL MELANOMA SKIN CANCER AWARENESS MONTH IN MIAMI-DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

LINK TO STRATEGIC BLUEPRINT: INFORMED, ENGAGED & EMPOWERED STAKEHOLDERS

Designated by the American Academy of Dermatology, National Melanoma Skin Cancer Prevention Month aims to raise awareness about skin cancer, increasing the chances of early detection so treatments can be given early and to promote the prevention and early detection of melanoma and other skin cancers.

There is no reliable cure for melanoma. In most cases, all the surgeon can do is cut cancerous tissue from the body by removing malignant moles, the skin surrounding the malignant mole and removing nearby lymph nodes if the cancer has spread. Melanoma does not respond well to chemotherapy and the effects of drug treatments are quite limited. Once melanoma has spread to other parts of the body life expectancy can rapidly diminish so it's vital early surgical treatment is given.

Most people do not realize that the skin is the largest and most visible organ of the body and performs many essential tasks. Substantially more than 1 million new cases of skin cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year. One in five Americans will develop skin cancer during their lifetime and this year, it is estimated that there will be 121,840 new cases of melanoma, the deadliest form of skin cancer, diagnosed in the United States. One person dies almost every hour from melanoma. Melanoma and other skin cancers are highly treatable if detected early. Sun exposure is the most preventable risk factor for all skin cancers, including melanoma;

Melanoma is often caused by exposure to high levels of sunlight. One or more blistering sunburns during childhood or teenage years can cause skin cancer many years later.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, endorses May 2016 as National Melanoma Skin Cancer Awareness Month in Miami-Dade County Public Schools and authorizes the Superintendent to:

1. Provide to students information regarding screening and long-term behaviors which may help prevent skin cancer;
2. Review summer school outdoor activity schedules;
3. Encourage protective wear for employees especially those who work in the outdoors; and,
4. Provide safety tips for students and employees during the summer and while in summer school.