

Greetings from SMS!

Florida — also known as the Sunshine State — provides a lot of great opportunities for people to be active outdoors. However, Floridians and visitors should always try to protect their skin from the sun's harmful rays. There is new legislation this year that impacts the protection of our children from the sun.

Per **Florida Statute 1002.20**, students in Sarasota County schools are now permitted to possess and use a **topical sunscreen product** while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a physician's note, prescription or parent permission if the product is regulated by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to limit ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

The Sarasota County School District recommends a lotion rather than a spray or aerosol, so sunscreen can be applied indoors without affecting other students. The District also recommends that students receive instruction at home in order to correctly follow sunscreen application directions.

Below is the full wording of the section of the statute about sunscreen:

Florida Statute 1002.20

Section (m) Sun-protective measures in school.—A student may possess and use a topical sunscreen product while on school property or at a school-sponsored event or activity without a physician's note or prescription if the product is regulated by the United States Food and Drug Administration for over-the-counter use to limit ultraviolet light-induced skin damage.

In addition, the Florida Department of Health has these recommendations:

- Sunscreen should be broad spectrum with a sun protection factor (SPF) of 15 or higher.
- Ideally, sunscreen should be reapplied every two hours and after swimming or perspiring.
- People should seek shade, especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. when the sun is the strongest.
- In the sun, people should wear sunglasses, a hat, long sleeves and sunscreen.

Parents, SMS Staff will not be able to apply sunscreen on students. Please instruct your child on appropriate application at home. Additionally, we request lotions rather than aerosols.

Thank you,

Janel Dorn, Principal

Betsy Magill, RN School Nurse

