

**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

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 15, 2015  
**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
**FROM:** Anna Marie Likos, MD, MPH   
Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection  
**SUBJECT:** Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2014–2015

**INFORMATION ONLY**

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In March 2015, the Immunization Section completed the annual *Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2014–2015*, in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF). This assessment assists the Department of Health in evaluating the immunization status of children from birth to age 49 months, in child care facilities, in accordance with the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices.

**Purpose:**

- To obtain a statewide representation of immunization levels in child care populations in relation to the State and national goal of 90 percent coverage
- To determine the percentage of children attending these facilities who are up-to-date on their immunizations
- To determine the level of compliance with immunization regulations at child care and Head Start facilities
- To identify children with adequate immunization levels who have expired exemptions or lack proper documentation of immunizations

**Method:**

The ratio of Florida facilities fitting sample selection criteria was 93 percent child care and seven percent Head Start. Based on the ratio, of the 240 facilities randomly selected as the statewide sample, 223 were child care and 17 were Head Start. The child care population was obtained from DCF's *Master List of Child Care Providers, Statewide*. The Head Start population was obtained from the Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center's Head Start Locator list.

At each facility, field staff audited ten randomly selected immunization records of children 19 months of age and older (19–59 months of age), totaling 2,400 records. Field staff also audited up to ten records of children under 19 months of age, per facility if applicable, totaling 887 records. The results of this assessment reflect those 3,287 randomly selected records.

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**Florida Department of Health**

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### **Child Care Specific Results:**

Of the 2,230 children 19 months of age and older, 94.9 percent were fully immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 1 varicella, and up-to-date for Hib and PCV. Of the remaining children in this age group, 3.2 percent had a valid exemption from immunization, 0.3 percent had no immunization record on file, and 1.6 should have been issued a Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) but were not. Children who had properly documented immunization records totaled 93.1 percent.

Of the 852 children under 19 months of age, 92.0 percent were not due immunization at the time of the assessment. Children with valid exemptions accounted for 2.3 percent of the total; and 5.6 percent were overdue for immunization.

### **Head Start Specific Results:**

Of the 170 children 19 months of age and older, 97.1 percent were fully immunized with the above listed vaccines. Of the remaining children in this age group, 3.0 percent had a valid exemption from immunization. All children had immunization records on file, 96.5 percent of which were properly documented.

Of the 35 children under 19 months of age, 97.1 percent were not due immunization at the time of the assessment, and 2.9 percent were overdue for immunization.

### **Opportunities for Improvement:**

- As county health departments (CHDs) become aware, contact those medical providers who incorrectly certify immunization records. These could be records CHD clinic staff have viewed while providing immunization services, or from local child care centers the CHD contacts on a routine or random basis. Offer the medical provider the *Creating Forms in Florida SHOTS* link regarding electronic immunization record certification. Provide a physical and/or electronic copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*.
- Contact local child care centers and request to speak with the person(s) responsible for verifying immunization records. Ask to review student immunization records together to provide guidance related to child care immunization requirements. Provide a copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*. Explain the proper use of the 30-day grace period facilities may grant transfer students, as well as the benefits of having a reliable tracking system by immunization record expiration date.
- The CHDs and the DCF District Child Care Licensing Specialists should work closely with childcare facilities to ensure these facilities maintain an adequate tracking and follow-up method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Children must be age-appropriately immunized, with proper documentation supporting the child's current immunization status.

The Immunization Section thanks licensing specialists, Head Start officials, participating child care and CHD staff for their assistance with this assessment. Each of us plays an integral role in the continuing mission to protect all people in Florida from vaccine-preventable diseases.

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If you have questions regarding this assessment, please contact your area field staff representative or our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-245-4444, extension 2395.

AML/RMG/aw  
Enclosures

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Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment  
2014–2015 School Year

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>Immunization Levels of Children <math>\geq</math> 19 Months of Age</b>		
	Head Start Facilities	Child Care Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	170	2,230
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines <sup>1</sup>	97.1 $\pm$ 2.5	94.9 $\pm$ 0.9
Percent Proper Documentation	96.5 $\pm$ 2.8	93.1 $\pm$ 1.0
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines <sup>1</sup>	0.6 $\pm$ 1.1	1.0 $\pm$ 0.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	1.2 $\pm$ 1.6	2.0 $\pm$ 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	1.2 $\pm$ 1.6	0.2 $\pm$ 0.2
Percent 4 DTaP	97.1 $\pm$ 2.5	95.5 $\pm$ 0.9
Percent 3 Polio	97.6 $\pm$ 2.3	96.6 $\pm$ 0.7
Percent 1 MMR	97.6 $\pm$ 2.3	96.8 $\pm$ 0.7
Percent Hib complete <sup>2</sup>	97.6 $\pm$ 2.3	96.9 $\pm$ 0.7
Percent Varicella compliant <sup>3</sup>	97.6 $\pm$ 2.3	96.8 $\pm$ 0.7
Percent Pneumococcal (PCV) complete <sup>2</sup>	97.6 $\pm$ 2.3	96.5 $\pm$ 0.8

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>Immunization Levels of Children <math>&lt;</math> 19 Months of Age</b>		
	Head Start Facilities	Child Care Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	35	852
Percent Not Due Immunizations	97.1 $\pm$ 5.5	92.0 $\pm$ 1.8
Percent Past Due Immunizations	2.9 $\pm$ 5.5	5.6 $\pm$ 1.5
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0	2.3 $\pm$ 1.0
Percent Proper Documentation	100.0 $\pm$ 0.0	93.1 $\pm$ 1.7

<sup>1</sup> Four or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines (DTaP/DTP/DT); 3 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine; 1 or more doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (preferably as MMR) vaccine; complete for age for Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate (PCV) vaccine; and 1 or more doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history).

<sup>2</sup> Up-to-date for age.

<sup>3</sup> One or more doses of vaccine or proof of disease history.

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<b>Table 3</b>					
<b>Child Care Facilities, By School Year, 2010–11 through 2014–15</b>					
<b>Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2010–11</b>	<b>2011–12</b>	<b>2012–13</b>	<b>2013–14</b>	<b>2014–15</b>
Number Records Reviewed	1,200	1,200	2,230	2,230	2,230
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	91.8	96.0	93.0	92.4	94.9
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	7.3	2.2	3.1	3.2	1.0
Percent Proper Documentation	90.3	92.7	91.3	92.8	93.1
<b>Immunization Levels of Children &lt; 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2010–11</b>	<b>2011–12</b>	<b>2012–13</b>	<b>2013–14</b>	<b>2014–15</b>
Number Records Reviewed	426	515	831	763	852
Percent Not Due Immunizations	91.3	95.7	86.0	89.3	92.0
Percent Past Due	3.3	3.9	11.1	9.3	5.6
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	5.4	0.4	2.9	1.4	2.3
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A <sup>1</sup>	84.7	92.9	89.8	93.1

<b>Table 4</b>					
<b>Head Start Facilities, By School Year, 2010–11 through 2014–15</b>					
<b>Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2010–11</b>	<b>2011–12</b>	<b>2012–13</b>	<b>2013–14</b>	<b>2014–15</b>
Number Records Reviewed	1,200	1,190	170	170	170
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	96.4	97.1	96.5	95.3	97.1
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	2.8	1.8	2.4	4.1	0.6
Percent Proper Documentation	91.6	90.8	95.9	97.1	96.5
<b>Immunization Levels of Children &lt; 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2010–11</b>	<b>2011–12</b>	<b>2012–13</b>	<b>2013–14</b>	<b>2014–15</b>
Number Records Reviewed	231	216	59	33	35
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.8	91.7	94.9	100	97.1
Percent Past Due	1.7	4.6	3.4	0.0	2.9
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	3.5	3.7	1.7	0.0	0.0
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A <sup>1</sup>	53.7	94.9	93.9	100.0

<sup>1</sup>Prior to the 2011–2012 school year, Proper Documentation data was not gathered for Children < 19 Months of Age.