



Rick Scott  
Governor

Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting State Surgeon General

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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** April 1, 2011  
**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
**FROM:** Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting State Surgeon General  
Signature on file  
**SUBJECT:** Florida Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment  
2010-2011

### FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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In March 2011, the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization (BOI) completed the annual survey of immunization levels of randomly selected childcare and Head Start facilities located throughout the state. The BOI field staff visited a total of 120 licensed childcare facilities and 120 Head Start facilities from January 5, 2011 to March 1, 2011. The department conducted this assessment to evaluate the immunization status of preschool children in accordance with the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Service and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

#### Survey Purposes

- To obtain a statewide representation of immunization levels in childcare populations in relation to the state and national goal of 90% coverage
- To determine the percentage of preschool children attending these facilities who are age-appropriately immunized
- To determine the level of compliance with immunization regulations at childcare and Head Start facilities
- To identify children with adequate immunization levels who have expired certificates or lack proper documentation of immunizations

#### Survey Results

Table 1 of the enclosure indicates vaccine-specific levels for children 19 months of age and older. Table 2 provides immunization data for children under 19 months of age.

#### **Head Start Facilities:**

There were 120 Head Start facilities randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, BOI field staff reviewed 1,431 randomly selected records, which included 231 children under 19 months of age and 1,200 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per facility).

Analysis of this data indicates 94.8% of children under 19 months of age were not due for immunizations at the time of the assessment, and 96.4% of children 19 months of age and older were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP/DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and are up to date for Hib and PCV.

**Childcare Facilities:**

There were 120 childcare facilities randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, BOI field staff reviewed 1,626 randomly selected records, which included 426 children under 19 months of age and 1,200 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per facility).

Analysis of this data indicates 91.3% of children under 19 months of age were not due for immunizations at the time of the assessment, and 91.8% of children 19 months of age and older were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP/DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and are up to date for Hib and PCV.

**Concerns**

The assessment shows that 3.3% of children less than 19 months of age who attend childcare facilities are past due for an immunization. These children, as well as those with temporary medical exemptions, are not adequately protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. The Department of Children and Families' District Child Care Licensing Specialists and county health department staff should work closely with childcare facilities to ensure these facilities maintain an adequate tracking and follow-up method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Agencies responsible for licensing childcare facilities must diligently ensure compliance with immunization requirements listed in Rule 65C-22.006, *Florida Administrative Code*, Child Care Standards. Children must be age-appropriately immunized, with proper documentation supporting the child's current immunization status.

The BOI thanks Head Start officials, childcare licensing specialists, and participating childcare and county health department staff for their assistance with this assessment. Each of us plays an integral role in the continuing mission to protect Florida's families and visitors from vaccine-preventable diseases.

SRT/cha/aw  
Enclosure

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cc: (continued)

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Florida Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment  
2010-2011 School Year

<b>Table 1</b>		
Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Childcare Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	1,200	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines <sup>1</sup>	96.4 ± 1.1	91.8 ± 1.5
Percent Proper Documentation	91.6 ± 1.6	90.3 ± 1.7
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	2.8 ± 0.9	7.3 ± 1.5
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.1 ± 0.2	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent Religious Exemptions	0.3 ± 0.3	1.4 ± 0.7
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.1 ± 0.2	0.3 ± 0.3
Percent 4 DTaP	99.2 ± 0.5	96.1 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Polio	99.6 ± 0.4	97.6 ± 0.9
Percent 1 MMR	99.3 ± 0.5	97.3 ± 0.9
Percent Hib complete <sup>2</sup>	98.5 ± 0.7	96.4 ± 1.1
Percent Varicella compliant <sup>3</sup>	99.3 ± 0.5	97.9 ± 0.8
Percent Pneumococcal (PCV) complete <sup>2</sup>	98.3 ± 0.7	96.3 ± 1.1

<b>Table 2</b>		
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Childcare Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	231	426
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.8 ± 2.9	91.3 ± 2.7
Percent Past Due	1.7 ± 1.7	3.3 ± 1.7
Percent no/improper documentation; inappropriately immunized; Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; and/or Enrolled <30 Days.	3.5 ± 2.4	5.4 ± 2.1

<sup>1</sup> Four or more doses of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/DT); 3 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine; 1 or more doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (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 proof of serological evidence of immunity or disease history).

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

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