



INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 12, 2012

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators

FROM: Steven L. Harris, M.D., M.Sc.
Interim State Surgeon General
(Signature on file)

SUBJECT: Florida Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment
2011-2012

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

In March 2012, 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 119 Head Start facilities from December 1, 2011 to March 1, 2012. 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

Method:

The BOI generated two simple, random samples of 120 childcare facilities and 120 Head Start facilities. Of these facilities, it was later determined that one facility was selected for both samples, due to being in the survey population under two different names. Therefore, this survey reflects 120 childcare facilities and 119 Head Start facilities. Field staff audited 10 randomly selected immunization records from each of these facilities.

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.

Childcare Facilities:

Of the 120 childcare facilities, BOI field staff reviewed 1,715 randomly selected records, which included 515 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 95.7% of children under 19 months of age were not due for immunizations at the time of the assessment, and 96.0% of children 19 months of age and older were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and were up to date for Hib and PCV.

Table 3 provides a three-year trend of immunization data for children enrolled in childcare facilities. The data shows a 4.2% increase from the previous school year of children 19 months of age and older who are *Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines*, and a 4.4% increase in children under 19 months of age who are *Not Due Immunizations*.

Head Start Facilities:

Of the 119 Head Start facilities, BOI field staff reviewed 1,406 randomly selected records, which included 216 children under 19 months of age and 1,190 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per facility).

Analysis of this data indicates 91.7% of children under 19 months of age were not due for immunizations at the time of the assessment, and 97.1% of children 19 months of age and older were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and were up to date for Hib and PCV.

Table 4 provides a three-year trend of immunization data for children enrolled in Head Start facilities. The data shows a slight increase (0.7%) from the previous school year of children 19 months of age and older who are *Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines*, and a decrease (3.1%) in children under 19 months of age who are *Not Due Immunizations*.

Concerns:

Rule 65C-22.006, *Florida Administrative Code*, offers a 30-day provision for children to attend childcare facilities without proper immunization documentation. However, 6.1% of the 3,121 immunization records audited were improperly documented. Of significance is the proper documentation rate for children under 19 months of age for both Head Start and childcare facilities, being only 53.7% and 84.7%, respectively.

Of children less than 19 months of age, 3.9% are past due for an immunization. These children, as well as those with exemptions from immunization, 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 adequate tracking and follow-up methods 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.

SLH/cha/aw

Enclosures

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Table 1		
Immunization Levels of Children \geq 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Childcare Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	1,190	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	97.1 \pm 0.9	96.0 \pm 1.1
Percent Proper Documentation	90.8 \pm 1.6	92.7 \pm 1.5
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ¹	1.8 \pm 0.7	2.2 \pm 0.8
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.0 \pm 0.0
Percent Religious Exemptions	0.5 \pm 0.4	1.3 \pm 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.1 \pm 0.2	0.2 \pm 0.2
Percent 4 DTaP	98.9 \pm 0.6	97.3 \pm 0.9
Percent 3 Polio	99.3 \pm 0.5	98.2 \pm 0.8
Percent 1 MMR	99.2 \pm 0.5	97.9 \pm 0.8
Percent Hib complete ²	98.6 \pm 0.7	98.0 \pm 0.8
Percent Varicella compliant ³	99.2 \pm 0.5	97.8 \pm 0.8
Percent Pneumococcal (PCV) complete ²	98.7 \pm 0.6	97.6 \pm 0.9

Table 2		
Immunization Levels of Children $<$ 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Childcare Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	216	515
Percent Not Due Immunizations	91.7 \pm 1.6	95.7 \pm 1.1
Percent Past Due	4.6 \pm 1.2	3.9 \pm 1.1
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	3.7 \pm 1.1	0.4 \pm 0.4
Percent Proper Documentation	53.7 \pm 2.8	84.7 \pm 2.0

¹ 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).

² Up-to-date for age.

³ One or more doses of vaccine or proof of serological evidence of immunity or disease history.

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Table 3			
Childcare Facilities, By School Year, 2009-2012			
Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number Records Reviewed	1,159	1,200	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	94.5	91.8	96.0
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.9	7.3	2.2
Percent Proper Documentation	96.2	90.3	92.7
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number Records Reviewed	431	426	515
Percent Not Due Immunizations	93.3	91.3	95.7
Percent Past Due	4.4	3.3	3.9
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	2.3	5.4	0.4
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	84.7

Table 4			
Head Start Facilities, By School Year, 2009-2012			
Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number Records Reviewed	1,176	1,200	1,190
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	97.4	96.4	97.1
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.1	2.8	1.8
Percent Proper Documentation	96.7	91.6	90.8
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number Records Reviewed	103	231	216
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.2	94.8	91.7
Percent Past Due	1.9	1.7	4.6
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	3.9	3.5	3.7
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	53.7

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