

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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 8, 2014
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Celeste Philip, M.D., M.P.H. 
Deputy Secretary for Health
SUBJECT: Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2013-2014

INFORMATION ONLY

In March 2014, the Immunization Section completed the annual *Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2013-2014*, in collaboration with the Department of Children and Families (DCF) and the Head Start State Collaboration Office. This assessment assists the department in evaluating the immunization status of children in child care facilities, in accordance with the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Public Health Service and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

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 (CC) and Head Start (HS) facilities
- To identify children with adequate immunization levels who have expired certificates or lack proper documentation of immunizations

Method:

The ratio of Florida facilities fitting sample selection criteria was 93 percent CC and 7 percent HS. Based on this ratio, of the 240 facilities selected as the statewide sample, 223 were CC and 17 were HS. Both CC and HS facilities were selected via simple, random sampling. The CC population was obtained from DCF's Master List of Child Care Providers, Statewide. The HS population was obtained from the Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center's Head Start Locator list.

At each of the 240 facilities, 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 randomly selected records of children under 19 months of age, per facility if applicable, totaling 796 records. The results of this assessment reflect those 3,196 randomly selected records.

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Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment
2013 - 2014 School Year

Table 1		
Immunization Levels of Children \geq 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Child Care Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	170	2,230
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	95.3 \pm 3.2	92.4 \pm 1.1
Percent Proper Documentation	97.1 \pm 2.5	92.8 \pm 1.1
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ¹	4.1 \pm 3.0	3.2 \pm 0.7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.4 \pm 0.3
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	2.4 \pm 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.8 \pm 0.4
Percent 4 DTaP	96.5 \pm 2.8	94.5 \pm 0.9
Percent 3 Polio	99.4 \pm 1.1	96.1 \pm 0.8
Percent 1 MMR	99.4 \pm 1.1	95.9 \pm 0.8
Percent Hib complete ²	100 \pm 0.0	95.9 \pm 0.8
Percent Varicella compliant ³	99.4 \pm 1.1	96.4 \pm 0.8
Percent Pneumococcal (PCV) complete ²	99.4 \pm 1.1	95.9 \pm 0.8

Table 2		
Immunization Levels of Children $<$ 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Child Care Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	33	763
Percent Not Due Immunizations	100 \pm 0.0	89.3 \pm 2.2
Percent Past Due Immunizations	0.0 \pm 0.0	9.3 \pm 2.1
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	0.0 \pm 0.0	1.4 \pm 0.8
Percent Proper Documentation	93.9 \pm 8.1	89.8 \pm 2.1

¹ 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).

² Up-to-date for age.

³ One or more doses of vaccine or proof of disease history.

Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment
2013-2014 School Year

Table 3					
Child Care Facilities, By School Year, 2009-10 through 2013-14					
Immunization Levels of Children \geq 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number Records Reviewed	1,159	1,200	1,200	2,230	2,230
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	94.5	91.8	96.0	93.0	92.4
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.9	7.3	2.2	3.1	3.2
Percent Proper Documentation	96.2	90.3	92.7	91.3	92.8
Immunization Levels of Children $<$ 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number Records Reviewed	431	426	515	831	763
Percent Not Due Immunizations	93.3	91.3	95.7	86.0	89.3
Percent Past Due	4.4	3.3	3.9	11.1	9.3
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	2.3	5.4	0.4	2.9	1.4
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	84.7	92.9	89.8

Table 4					
Head Start Facilities, By School Year, 2009-10 through 2013-14					
Immunization Levels of Children \geq 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number Records Reviewed	1,176	1,200	1,190	170	170
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	97.4	96.4	97.1	96.5	95.3
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.1	2.8	1.8	2.4	4.1
Percent Proper Documentation	96.7	91.6	90.8	95.9	97.1
Immunization Levels of Children $<$ 19 Months of Age	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Number Records Reviewed	103	231	216	59	33
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.2	94.8	91.7	94.9	100
Percent Past Due	1.9	1.7	4.6	3.4	0.0
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	3.9	3.5	3.7	1.7	0.0
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A ¹	N/A ¹	53.7	94.9	93.9

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

Child Care Results:

Of the children 19 months of age and older, 92.4 percent were fully immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 1 varicella, and up-to-date for Hib and PCV. Of the children under 19 months of age, 89.3 percent were not due for immunization at the time of the assessment. Additionally, 89.8 percent of the children under 19 months of age had properly documented immunization records.

Head Start Results:

Of the children 19 months of age and older, 95.3 percent were fully immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, 1 varicella, and up-to-date for Hib and PCV. All of the children under 19 months of age were up-to-date for their age at the time of the assessment. Additionally, 93.9 percent of the children under 19 months of age had properly documented immunization records.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- 7.2 percent of the immunization records audited for CC children 19 months of age and older were not properly documented.
- 10.2 percent of the immunization records audited for CC children under 19 months of age were not properly documented.
- 9.3 percent of the CC children under 19 months of age were past due for immunizations. These children, as well as those with exemptions from immunization, are not adequately protected against vaccine-preventable diseases.

The DCF District Child Care Licensing Specialists and county health department staff should work closely with child care facilities to ensure these facilities maintain an adequate tracking and follow-up method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Agencies responsible for licensing child care 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 Immunization Section thanks child care licensing specialists, Head Start officials, and participating child care and county health department 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.

If you have questions regarding the methodology of this assessment, please contact our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-245-4444, extension 2395. All other questions related to this assessment should be directed to the Area (county specific) Immunization Section field staff (see enclosure).

CP/CHA/aw
Enclosures

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cc continued:

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