

Mission:

To protect, promote & improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county & community efforts.



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Interim State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 6, 2016
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVMP *for CB*
Acting Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
SUBJECT: Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2015–2016

In March 2016, the Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Immunization Section completed the annual *Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2015–2016*, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). This assessment assists DOH in evaluating the immunization status of children from birth to age 59 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 with immunizations
- To determine the level of compliance with immunization regulations at child care and Head Start facilities
- To identify children who have expired exemptions or who lack proper documentation of immunizations

Method:

The ratio of Florida facilities fitting sample selection criteria was 93 percent child care and 7 percent Head Start. Based on the ratio, of the 234 facilities randomly selected as the statewide sample, 217 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, Immunization Section field staff audited 10 randomly selected immunization records of children 19 months of age and older (up to 59 months of age), totaling 2,340 records. Field staff also audited up to 10 records of children under 19 months of age, per facility if applicable, totaling 950 records. The results of this assessment reflect those 3,290 randomly selected records.

Florida Department of Health

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Child Care Specific Results:

Of the 2,170 children 19 months of age and older, 94.5 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, 3.8 percent had a valid exemption from immunization, 0.7 percent had no immunization record on file, and 1.0 percent should have been issued a Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) but were not. Children who had properly documented immunization records totaled 94.3 percent.

Of the 943 children under 19 months of age, 90.0 percent were not due immunization at the time of the assessment. Children with valid exemptions accounted for 2.4 percent of the total and 7.5 percent were overdue for immunization.

Head Start Specific Results:

Of the 170 children 19 months of age and older, 97.6 percent were fully immunized with the above listed vaccines. Of the remaining children in this age group, 1.2 percent had a valid exemption from immunization and 1.2 percent should have been issued a TME but were not. All children had an immunization record on file, and 97.6 of those records were properly documented.

All seven children (100 percent) under 19 months of age were current with immunizations at the time of the assessment, and all but one was properly certified. With such a small number of children sampled, these data do not necessarily represent the target population. All seven children reside in the same county, and six of the seven attend the same Head Start facility.

Opportunities for Improvement:

- As county health departments (CHDs) become aware of incorrectly certified/improperly documented immunization records, they should contact the certifying medical provider and offer guidance. A useful tool to share is the *Creating Forms in Florida SHOTS* link regarding electronic immunization record certification. If the provider does not have a copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*, provide them a hard copy and/or link at the following web address: floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/schoolguide.pdf.
- CHDs should contact local child care centers and ask to review student immunization records together, and 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, as well as the benefits of having a reliable tracking system by TME expiration date.
- CHDs could collaborate with DCF District Child Care Licensing Specialists to ensure facilities maintain adequate tracking and follow-up methods for children who have incomplete immunizations. Children must be age-appropriately immunized, with proper documentation supporting each child's current immunization status.

The Immunization Section thanks participating child care and CHD staff, licensing specialists and Head Start officials 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 (see attached list) or our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-245-4342.

CB/RMG/aw
Enclosures

cc: Florida Department of Children and Families
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Child Care and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment
2015–2016 School Year

Table 1		
Immunization Levels of Children \geq 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Child Care Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	170	2,170
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	97.6 \pm 2.3	94.5 \pm 1.0
Percent Proper Documentation	97.6 \pm 2.3	94.3 \pm 1.0
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ¹	1.2 \pm 1.6	1.5 \pm 0.5
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.0 \pm 0.0
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	2.1 \pm 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.0 \pm 0.0	0.2 \pm 0.2
Percent 4 DTaP	98.2 \pm 2.0	95.5 \pm 0.9
Percent 3 Polio	98.8 \pm 1.6	96.4 \pm 0.8
Percent 1 MMR	100.0 \pm 0.0	96.6 \pm 0.8
Percent Hib complete ²	100.0 \pm 0.0	96.3 \pm 0.8
Percent Varicella compliant ³	100.0 \pm 0.0	96.3 \pm 0.8
Percent Pneumococcal (PCV) complete ²	100.0 \pm 0.0	96.3 \pm 0.8

Table 2		
Immunization Levels of Children $<$ 19 Months of Age		
	Head Start Facilities	Child Care Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	7	943
Percent Not Due Immunizations	7 \pm 0.0	90.0 \pm 1.9
Percent Past Due Immunizations	0.0 \pm 0.0	7.5 \pm 1.7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	0.0 \pm 0.0	2.4 \pm 1.0
Percent Proper Documentation	85.7 \pm 25.9	91.6 \pm 1.8

¹ Four or more (valid) doses of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (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.

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Table 3					
Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age					
Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Number Records Reviewed	1,200	2,230	2,230	2,230	2,170
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	96.0	93.0	92.4	94.9	94.5
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ¹	2.2	3.1	3.2	1.0	1.5
Percent Proper Documentation	92.7	91.3	92.8	93.1	94.3
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age					
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Number Records Reviewed	515	831	763	852	943
Percent Not Due Immunizations	95.7	86.0	89.3	92.0	90.0
Percent Past Due	3.9	11.1	9.3	5.6	7.5
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	0.4	2.9	1.4	2.3	2.4
Percent Proper Documentation	84.7	92.9	89.8	93.1	91.6

Table 4					
Head Start Facilities, By School Year, 2011–2012 through 2015–2016					
Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Number Records Reviewed	1,190	170	170	170	170
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	97.1	96.5	95.3	97.1	97.6
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.8	2.4	4.1	0.6	1.2
Percent Proper Documentation	90.8	95.9	97.1	96.5	97.6
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age					
Immunization Levels of Children < 19 Months of Age	2011–12	2012–13	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16
Number Records Reviewed	216	59	33	35	7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	91.7	94.9	100.0	97.1	100.0
Percent Past Due	4.6	3.4	0.0	2.9	0.0
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	3.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percent Proper Documentation	53.7	94.9	93.9	100.0	85.7

¹ Four or more (valid) doses of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (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).