

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
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 8, 2018

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators

FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM
Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
State Epidemiologist 

SUBJECT: Child Care Facilities Immunization Assessment 2017–18 School Year

INFORMATION ONLY

In February 2018, the Florida Department of Health's (DOH) Immunization Section completed the annual *Child Care Facilities Immunization Assessment 2017–18*, in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Florida Administrative Code Rule 65C-22 requires that prior to entry or attendance into a Florida licensed child care facility, each child shall have on file, a *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680).

This assessment assists the DOH in evaluating the immunization status of children in licensed child care facilities, based on the recommendation by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices. Florida's goal, as well as the national goal, is for 90 percent of children in licensed child care facilities, to be fully immunized for their age.

The child care facilities selected for this assessment were derived from DCF's *Master List of Child Care Providers*. Facilities with ≤ 15 children enrolled the previous school year were eliminated from the sample population. Field staff representatives audited 10 randomly-selected immunization records of children 19 months of age and older (up to 59 months of age), per facility, totaling 2,400 records. They also audited up to 10 records of children under 19 months of age, per facility if applicable, totaling 945 records. The results of this assessment reflect those 3,345 randomly selected records.

Of the 2,400 children 19 months of age and older, 2,276, or 94.8 percent, were fully immunized with four or more (valid) doses of diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, three or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), one or more doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, complete for age for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and one or more doses of varicella vaccine (VZV) (or disease history).

Each facility should have a valid exemption from immunization on file for children not fully immunized for their age. Exemption types include Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) (21, or 0.9 percent); Permanent Medical Exemption (one, or 0.0 percent); Religious Exemption (44, or 1.8 percent); and 30-Day Exemptions (nine, or 0.4 percent) (Table 1).

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Twelve children, or 0.5 percent, had no immunization record on file, and 37, or 1.5 percent were past due for immunization and had expired TMEs. These 37 children are included in number of children who had improperly certified or documented DH Form 680s. These 128 children are considered “Out-of-Compliance” (OOC) with child care entry or attendance immunization requirements (Table 1).

Of the 945 children under 19 months of age, 880, or 93.1 percent were not due immunization at the time of the assessment; and 17, or 1.8 percent, had valid exemptions (Permanent Medical, Religious, and 30-Day) from immunization. Forty-eight children, or 5.1 percent were past due for immunization and had expired TMEs. These 48 children are included in number of children (67 or 7.1 percent), who had improperly certified or documented DH Form 680s. These 67 children are considered “Out-of-Compliance” (OOC) with child care entry or attendance immunization requirements (Table 2).

Table 3 provides a 5-year comparison of “fully immunized,” exemption from immunization by type, individual vaccine rates, as well as proper immunization documentation rates for children ≥ 19 months of age. The fully immunized rate has remained consistent for the past three years, at 94.8 percent. Temporary and Religious Exemption rates have steadily declined (improved), and are at the lowest this year, with 0.9 and 1.8 percent, respectively. Individual vaccine rates for MMR, IPV, Hib, VZV, and PCV have remained within < 1 percent. The DTaP rate was 94.6 percent in 2013, and has since remained between 95.6 and 95.8 percent. The rate of proper immunization documentation improved by 1.2 percent from last year, and is the highest yet this year with 94.7 percent.

Table 4 provides a 5-year comparison of children < 19 months of age who were up-to-date with all required vaccines for their age, or had an exemption from immunization for all exemption types except Temporary (TME), as all children in the process of vaccination at this age would have a TME. Proper immunization documentation rates are provided as well. In all categories, the rates have not been consistent year-to-year; specifically, the rate of children who were up-to-date with all required vaccines for their age fluctuated between 87.4 and 92.2 percent, and is the highest this year, at 93.1 percent. Exemption rates have been between 1.4 and 5.2 percent, and the rate of children with proper immunization documentation have been between 88.8 and 93.3 percent.

Opportunities for Improvement:

Children must be age-appropriately immunized, with proper documentation supporting each child's current immunization status. Child care facilities must consistently review TMEs on file and enforce child care immunization requirements. Local Department of Health (DOH) offices could contact medical providers who incorrectly certify DH Form 680, and provide the *Creating Forms in Florida SHOTS* link regarding electronic immunization record certification.

Local child care centers should have a physical or electronic copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*, found online at www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/children-and-adolescents/_documents/school-guide.pdf. It is important for child care center staff to understand the proper use of the 30-day grace period, as well as have a reliable tracking system by TME expiration date.

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 850-901-6806.

CB/RMG/aw

Enclosures

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Florida Department of Health
 Childcare Facilities Immunization Assessment
 Coverage Levels by Age Group
 Florida, 2017–18 School Year

Table 1 Children ≥19 Months of Age		
	#	% ¹
Records Reviewed	2,400	100
Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines ²	2,276	94.8 ± 0.9
Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ²	21	0.9 ± 0.4
Permanent Medical Exemptions	1	0.0 ± 0.1
Religious Exemptions	44	1.8 ± 0.5
30-Day Exemptions	9	0.4 ± 0.2
4 DTaP	2,298	95.8 ± 0.8
3 Polio	2,309	96.2 ± 0.8
1 MMR	2,320	96.7 ± 0.7
Hib complete ²	2,327	97.0 ± 0.7
Varicella compliant ⁴	2,317	96.5 ± 0.7
Pneumococcal (PCV) complete ³	2,325	96.9 ± 0.7
Out-of-Compliance: No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	12	0.5 ± 0.3
Out-of-Compliance: Past Due Immunizations	37	1.5 ± 0.5
Out-of-Compliance: Improperly Certified or Documented Immunization Record (DH 680)	116	4.8 ± 0.9

Table 2 Children <19 Months of Age		
	#	% ¹
Records Reviewed	945	100
Not Due Immunizations ³	880	93.1 ± 1.6
Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or 30-Day Exemption	17	1.8 ± 0.8
Out-of-Compliance: Past Due Immunizations	48	5.1 ± 1.4
Out-of-Compliance: Improperly Certified or Documented Immunization Record (DH 680)	67	7.1 ± 1.6

¹Immunization levels (unweighted) presented as point estimate (%) ± 95% confidence interval.

²Four or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, three or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), one or more doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, complete for age for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and one or more doses of varicella vaccine (VZV) (or disease history).

³Up-to-date for age.

⁴One or more doses of vaccine or proof of disease history.

Florida Department of Health
 Childcare Facilities Immunization Assessment
 Coverage Levels by Age Group and School Year, 2013–14 through 2017–18
 Florida, 2017–18 School Year

Table 3 Children ≥19 Months of Age					
Survey Year	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Records Reviewed	2,400	2,400	2,340	2,400	2,400
Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	92.6	95.0	94.7	94.8	94.8
Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ¹	3.3	1.0	1.5	1.2	0.9
Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious Exemptions	2.2	2.0	2.0	2.1	1.8
30-Day Exemptions	0.7	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.4
4 DTaP	94.6	95.6	95.7	95.6	95.8
3 Polio	96.3	96.7	96.6	96.3	96.2
1 MMR	96.2	96.9	96.8	96.9	96.7
Hib complete ²	96.2	97.0	96.6	96.8	97.0
Varicella compliant ³	96.6	96.9	96.5	96.8	96.5
Pneumococcal (PCV) complete ²	96.2	96.6	96.5	96.7	96.9
Out-of-Compliance: No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	0.5	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.5
Proper Immunization Documentation	93.1	93.4	94.5	93.5	94.7

Table 4 Children <19 Months of Age					
Survey Year	2013–14	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18
Records Reviewed	796	887	950	848	945
Not Due Immunizations	89.7	92.2	87.4	89.3	93.1
Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or 30-Day Exemption	1.4	2.3	5.2	3.1	1.8
Proper Immunization Documentation	89.9	93.3	91.6	88.8	92.9

¹Immunization levels (unweighted) presented as point estimate (%) ± 95% confidence interval.

²Four or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, three or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), one or more doses of measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, complete for age for *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV), and one or more doses of varicella vaccine (VZV)(or disease history).

³Up-to-date for age.

⁴One or more doses of vaccine or proof of disease history.

⁵Includes missing immunization records.