



Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 21, 2003
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A. *B. Sorensen MD*
Deputy State Health Officer
SUBJECT: Child Care Facilities and Headstart Immunization Assessment 2002/03

INFORMATION ONLY

The Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization field staff completed the annual survey of immunization levels in randomly selected child care facilities and headstart centers throughout the state. A total of 155 licensed child care facilities were visited this year. The immunization records of 12,264 children, including 1,258 children less than 19 months of age, were assessed. This audit was conducted to evaluate the immunization status of preschool children in accordance with the schedule recommended by the Department of Health's Bureau of Immunization, the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices of the United States Public Health Service, and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Purposes:

- To obtain a statewide representation of immunization levels in child care populations in relation to the state and national goal of 90 percent.
- To determine the percentage of preschool children attending these facilities who are age-appropriately immunized.
- To determine child care and headstart facilities' level of compliance with immunization regulations.
- To identify children needing follow-up in each center who are inadequately immunized, have expired certificates, or lack proper documentation of immunizations.

Results:

Headstart Centers:

- Forty-two headstart centers with an enrollment of 2,433, including 66 children less than 19 months of age, were randomly selected statewide.
- Of the 2,367 children surveyed, 94.9 percent, or 2,246 children 19 months of age and older, were fully immunized with the basic series; four DTaP, three polio, one MMR, appropriate Hib, and one varicella vaccination.
- Vaccine-specific levels are shown in Table 1 of the attachment.

Child Care Facilities:

- The results of the child care assessment survey include 11,006 children 19 months of age and older, as reflected in Table 1 of the attachment.
- Of the 11,006 children surveyed, 91.2 percent, or 10,040 children, were adequately immunized with four DTaP, three polio, one MMR, appropriate Hib, and one varicella vaccination.
- Children less than 19 months of age were analyzed and reported separately, as many of these children were too young to have completed their basic series, as reflected in Table 2.
- Vaccine-specific levels are shown in Table 1 of the attachment.

Concerns:

The assessment indicates that 8.3 percent of children less than 19 months of age are past due for an immunization. Those children who are past due for an immunization, 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 are encouraged to work with child care facilities to ensure that these facilities have an adequate follow-up or tracking method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Agencies responsible for licensing child care centers must ensure compliance with immunization requirements listed in Rule 65C-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, Child Care Standards. Children need to have their immunizations brought up-to-date, and improper forms should be replaced with properly completed Department of Health forms, DH Form 680 Part A, B, and/or C or DH Form 681 for religious exemption.

In conclusion, the Bureau of Immunization staff wish to extend their thanks to the child care licensing specialists, county health department staff, child care center officials, and headstart officials who helped in this audit. To prevent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases, it is essential that we all do our part in guaranteeing adequate immunization for the future good health of children in Florida.

BJS/cha/fhd

Attachments

cc: Linda F. Radigan, Deputy Director for Family Safety, Department of Children and Families
Deborah Russo, Director, Child Care Services, Department of Children and Families
Ron Cox, SMA Supervisor, Child Care Services, Department of Children and Families
District Child Care Licensure Specialists, Department of Children and Families
County Child Care Licensing
Landis K. Crockett, M.D., M.P.H., Director, Division of Disease Control
Annette Phelps, A.R.N.P., M.S.N., Director, Division of Family Health Services
Shannon B. Lease, M.S., Director, Office of Performance Improvement
Meade Grigg, Director, Division of Planning, Evaluation & Data Analysis
Charles H. Alexander, Chief, Bureau of Immunization
County Health Department Nursing Directors
Bureau of Immunization Field Staff

Table 1

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN >= 19 MONTHS OF AGE
IN HEADSTART AND CHILD CARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2002/03**

	HEADSTART	CHILD CARE FACILITIES
Number Records Reviewed	2,433	11,006
Percent Fully Immunized	94.9	91.2
Percent Proper Documentation	97.3	95.6
Percent Temporary Exemption	1.3	2.7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption	0.1	0.0
Percent Religious Exemption	0.1	0.4
Percent 30 Day Exemption	1.0	0.8
Percent 4+ DTaP	97.1	95.0
Percent 3+ Polio	98.5	96.6
Percent MMR	98.2	96.9
Percent Hib	97.5	96.1
Percent Varicella	97.1	95.3

Table 2

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN <19 MONTHS OF AGE
IN CHILD CARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2002/03**

Number Records Reviewed	1,258
Percent Not Due Immunizations	88.6
Percent Past Due	8.3
Percent With No Form; Enrolled <30 Days; and Religious Exempt or Permanent Medical Exempt	3.0

There were too few children <19 months of age in Headstart facilities for valid percentages.