



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 22, 2007
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A.
Deputy State Health Officer
SUBJECT: Florida Childcare Facilities and Head Start Immunization Assessment
2006-2007

INFORMATION ONLY

In March 2007, the Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization (BOI) completed the annual survey of immunization levels of randomly selected childcare facilities and Head Start centers located throughout the state. The field staff visited a total of 60 licensed childcare facilities and 60 Head Start centers from October 2006 to March 2007. 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.

Survey Results

Table 1 in the attachment shows vaccine-specific levels for both Head Start and childcare facilities.

Head Start Centers:

There were 60 Head Start centers randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, the BOI reviewed 679 randomly selected records, which included 84 children under 19 months of age and 595 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per site).

The results of the 595 children 19 months of age and older show 96.1%, or 572 children, were fully immunized with the basic series 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, appropriate Hib, and 1 Varicella vaccination.

Childcare Facilities:

There were 60 childcare facilities randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, the BOI reviewed 844 randomly selected records, which included 262 children under 19 months of age and 582 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per site).

The results of the 582 children 19 months of age and older show 96.4%, or 561 children, were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, appropriate Hib, and 1 Varicella vaccination.

Since many of the children less than 19 months of age were too young to have completed their basic series, these results were reported separately (See Table 2).

Concerns

The assessment shows that 6.1% of children less than 19 months old who attend childcare facilities are past due for an immunization. These children, 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 should work closely with childcare facilities to ensure these facilities maintain an adequate follow-up or tracking method 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 status.

The BOI thanks the childcare facility and Head Start officials, childcare licensing specialists, and county health department staff for their help 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.

BJS/cha/eaf

Attachments

cc: Beth Englander, Director of Child Welfare and Community-Based Care
Department of Children and Families
Deborah Russo, Director of Child Care Services
Department of Children and Families
Mike Boland, SMA Supervisor of Child Care Services
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Division of Family Health Services
Shannon B. Lease, M.S., Director
Office of Performance Improvement
Meade Grigg, Director
Division of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis

March 22, 2007

cc: Charles H. Alexander, Chief
Bureau of Immunization
District Child Care Licensure Specialists
Department of Children and Families
County Child Care Licensing
County Health Department Nursing Directors
Bureau of Immunization Field Staff

Table 1

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN ≥ 19 MONTHS OLD
IN HEAD START AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2006-2007**

	HEAD START	CHILDCARE FACILITIES
Number Records Reviewed	595	582
Percent Fully Immunized	96.1 ± 1.5	96.4 ± 1.5
Percent Proper Documentation	96.1 ± 1.5	96.0 ± 1.6
Percent Temporary Exemption	0.8 ± 0.7	0.9 ± 0.7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent Religious Exemption	0.2 ± 0.3	0.2 ± 0.3
Percent 30-Day Exemption	0.3 ± 0.5	1.0 ± 0.8
Percent 4+ DTaP	97.6 ± 1.2	96.6 ± 1.5
Percent 3+ Polio	98.3 ± 1.0	97.9 ± 1.2
Percent MMR	98.3 ± 1.0	97.6 ± 1.2
Percent Hib	96.5 ± 1.5	97.4 ± 1.3
Percent Varicella	98.2 ± 1.1	97.9 ± 1.2

Table 2

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN < 19 MONTHS OLD
IN CHILDCARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2006-2007**

Number Records Reviewed	262
Percent Not Due Immunizations	86.3 ± 4.2
Percent Past Due	6.1 ± 2.9
Percent With No Form; Enrolled < 30 Days; and Religious Exempt or Permanent Medical Exempt	7.6 ± 3.2

There were too few children less than 19 months old in Head Start facilities for valid percentages.