

Mission:

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



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Phillip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: June 9, 2017

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators

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

SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment 2016–2017

INFORMATION ONLY

Each October, public and private schools submit reports indicating the immunization status of their kindergarten and seventh-grade students, as required by section 1003.22(8), Florida Statutes. County health department (CHD) and Department of Education (DOE) staff compile and submit these data to the DOH's Division of Disease Control and Health Protection Immunization Section for analysis. These are then published in the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report*.

Since the data are self-reported, the Immunization Section field staff representatives conduct an annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment* to evaluate accuracy of the status report results and to determine if improvement in immunization levels occurred. The public school population was derived from the DOE's *Membership by School by Grade* report, while the private school population was derived from the DOE's *Florida Private Schools Directory*. Schools having a membership of ≤ 15 students in those grades the previous school year were eliminated from the sample population.

Simple random samples of 120 kindergarten and 120 seventh grades were generated, totaling 240 schools. As the ratio of the kindergartens fitting sample selection criteria was 77 percent public and 23 percent private, the sample generated was 92 public and 28 private kindergartens. The seventh-grade ratio was 67 percent public and 33 percent private; therefore, the sample generated was 78 public and 42 private schools. Field staff representatives audited 10 randomly-selected immunization records per school, totaling 240 schools (or 2,400 immunization records). The results of this report reflect those 2,400 randomly selected records.

Prior to entry or attendance into Florida schools, grades kindergarten through twelve, each student shall have on file a *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680) documenting the following (valid) immunizations were received: Five or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine; four or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV); two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after the child's

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fourth birthday. Prior to seventh-grade entry, students must also receive one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine. This is captured in "Percent Fully Immunized" in the report (see Tables 1, 2, and 3).

Florida's goal is for 95 percent of students entering kindergarten or seventh grade to be immunized with all required vaccines for their grade. The national goal for kindergarten is also 95 percent, with seventh grade being 90 percent. This year's kindergarten rate was 93.8 percent (Tables 1 and 2), a slight improvement from last year's 92.9 percent. The seventh-grade rate was 93.1 percent.

Each school should have a valid exemption on file for students not fully immunized for their grade. Exemption types include Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) (0.9 percent kindergarten, 2.0 percent seventh grade); Permanent Medical (0.3 percent kindergarten, 0.4 percent seventh grade); Religious (2.3 percent kindergarten, 1.6 percent seventh grade); and 30-Day (0.1 percent kindergarten, 0.0 percent seventh grade) (Table 1).

The Validation Assessment rate of kindergarten and seventh-grade students who had either an improperly certified or no DH Form 680 was 5.0 percent (kindergarten) and 16.8 percent (seventh grade), compared to the percentage of students considered "Out-of-Compliance" (OOC) in the Status Report: 0.1 percent (kindergarten), and 0.3 percent (seventh grade) (Table 1).

The percentile differences between the Validation Assessment and the Status Report for kindergarten students were primarily due to schools categorizing those students who received all required immunizations for their grade as being fully immunized/complete for kindergarten (Part A), even though their DH Form 680 was improperly certified as a TME (Part B).

The percentile differences between the Validation Assessment and the Status Report for seventh-grade students were primarily due to medical providers incorrectly certifying the DH Form 680 for students who did not receive the required dose of Tdap vaccine, as Part A, or schools not consistently enforcing the Tdap requirement for students prior to school entry or attendance; therefore, outdated (or no) immunization record was on file.

Opportunities for Improvement:

Contact those medical providers who incorrectly certify DH Form 680. Provide the *Creating Forms in Florida SHOTS* link regarding electronic immunization record certification. Provide a physical or electronic copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*.

Contact those schools who report high TME, 30-Day Transfer, or OOC rates. Consult with the person(s) responsible for verifying student immunization records and request to review those together. Provide guidance related to school immunization requirements as well as provide a copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*. If not already in use, explain the benefits of having a reliable tracking system by expiration date. Often schools report **expired** TMEs as TMEs, and expired 30-Day Transfer exemptions as 30-Day Transfer exemptions instead of OOC.

Schools should discontinue allowing **non-transfer** students entry or attendance without a valid DH Form 680. Instead, those students should be referred to their health care providers or local CHDs for immunization services, and excluded from school until compliance is met.

If you have questions regarding this assessment, please contact your area field staff representative or our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-245-4342, extension 2395.

June 9, 2017

CB/RMG/aw

Enclosures

cc: Department of Education

Monica Verra-Tirado, EdD, Chief

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Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services

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Immunization Section Field Staff Representatives

Table 1				
Immunization Status of Kindergarten and Seventh-Grade Students Comparison of Annual Status Report and Validation Assessment Florida, 2016–2017 School Year				
	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Status Report	Validation Assessment	Status Report	Validation Assessment
Survey Enrollment	211,311	1,200	228,815	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized	94.1 ^{1,2}	93.8 ¹ ± 1.4	95.9 ^{2,3}	93.1 ³ ± 1.4
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	3.1	0.9 ± 0.5	2.0	0.2 ± 0.2
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.4	0.3 ± 0.3	0.4	0.4 ± 0.4
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	2.1	2.3 ± 0.9	1.4	1.6 ± 0.7
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.1	0.1 ± 0.2	0.1	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent Improperly Certified or No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	0.1 ⁴	5.0 ± 1.2	0.3 ⁴	16.8 ± 2.1

¹Percent of kindergarten students (public and private) who received five or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, four or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

²May include vaccine doses administered regardless of timing or interval (invalid).

³Percent of seventh-grade students (public and private) who received four or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis (DTaP) vaccines and one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine, four or more doses of any inactivated poliovirus vaccine, two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

⁴Students with no immunization record are considered "Out of Compliance" in the status report.

Table 2	
Statewide Kindergarten Validation Assessment Florida, 2016–2017 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized	93.8 ¹ ± 1.4
Percent ≥ 4 DTaP	95.4 ± 1.2
Percent ≥ 3 Polio	95.7 ± 1.2
Percent 2 MMR	96.1 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	96.5 ± 1.0
Percent 2 Varicella	95.7 ± 1.2
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.3 ± 0.3

¹Percent of kindergarten students (public and private) who received five or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, four or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

Table 3	
Statewide Seventh Grade Validation Assessment Florida, 2016–2017 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized	93.1 ² ± 1.4
Percent Tdap	94.5 ± 1.3
Percent 2 MMR	97.5 ± 0.9
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	97.3 ± 0.9
Percent 2 Varicella	96.3 ± 1.1
Percent Varicella Disease History	1.2 ± 0.6

²Percent of seventh grade students (public and private) who received four or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis (DTaP) vaccines and one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine, four or more doses of any inactivated poliovirus vaccine, two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.