

Mission:

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



Ron DeSantis
Governor

Scott A. Rivkees, MD
State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the **Healthiest State** in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: October 10, 2019

TO: County Health Department Health Officers

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

SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment, 2018–19 School Year

INFORMATION ONLY

Each October, public and private schools submit reports indicating the immunization or exemption status of all children enrolled in kindergarten (KG) and seventh grade, as required by section 1003.22(8) Florida Statutes, and Florida Administrative Code Rule 64D-3.046. Public schools electronically report child-specific vaccination coverage and exemption data to their respective school districts, which in turn electronically report to the Florida Department of Education (FDOE). Private schools manually report (on DH Form 684) school-level immunization coverage and exemption data, as well as child-specific data for those students not immunized with all vaccines required for their grade, to the local county health department (CHD). CHD and FDOE staff compile and submit these data to the FDOH's Division of Disease Control and Health Protection's Immunization Section for analysis. These are then published in the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report*.

Since data from the Status Report are self-reported by each school, Immunization Section field staff representatives conduct this annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment* to review immunization records from a sample of schools included in the Status Report. The public school population was derived from FDOE's *Membership by School by Grade* report, while the private school population was derived from FDOE's Florida School Choice, *Office of Independent Education & Parental Choice* Web page, at floridaschoolchoice.org/information/privateschooldirectory/DownloadExcelFile.aspx.

Schools with ≤ 15 students in KG or seventh grade the previous school year were eliminated from the sample population. Random samples of 120 schools with a KG and 120 schools with a seventh grade were generated, totaling 240 schools. As the ratio of schools with KG membership fitting sample selection criteria was 75% public and 25% private, the samples generated were 90 public and 30 private schools. The ratio for seventh-grade membership was 58% public and 42% private; therefore, the sample generated was 70 public and 50 private schools. Field staff representatives audited 10 randomly selected immunization records per school, totaling 2,400 immunization records. The results of this assessment reflect those 2,400 randomly selected records.

To attend KG, each student must provide a *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680) Part A, documenting receipt of the following vaccinations: four or five¹ doses of DTaP (diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis) vaccine; three, four, or five² doses of IPV (inactivated poliovirus vaccine); two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine; three doses of hepatitis B vaccine; and two doses of varicella vaccine (or physician documented disease history).

†The fifth dose of DTaP vaccine is not necessary if the fourth dose was administered at age 4 years or older. ‡If four or more doses of IPV were administered before age 4 years, an additional dose should be administered at age 4 through 6 years and at least six months after the previous dose. A fourth dose of IPV is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least six months after the previous dose.

Before attending seventh grade, each student must provide a DH Form 680, Part A, documenting one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine in addition to the vaccines required for KG. These are captured in “Percent Fully Immunized” in the enclosures attached to this memorandum.

FDOH’s goal is for 95% of students attending KG or seventh grade to be immunized with all vaccines required for their grade. The national goal (*Healthy People 2020*) for KG is also 95%, with seventh grade being 90%. **The 2018–2019 school year’s kindergarten rate was 92.9%** (Tables 1 and 2), down from last year’s 94.0%. **The seventh-grade rate was 90.2%**, which is comparable with last year’s 90.8%.

Students who do not present a DH Form 680, Part A, must have one of the allowable exemptions from immunization on file:

- DH Form 680, Part B (Temporary Medical Exemption) (TME)
- DH Form 680, Part C (Permanent Medical Exemption) (PME)
- DH Form 681, *Religious Exemption from Immunization* (RE)
- 30-Day Transfer Exemption

The 2018-2019 school year exemption rate comparisons, as shown in Table 1, were:

Kindergarten:

- TME: (Validation 1.0%; Status 2.7%)
- PME: (Validation 0.1%; Status 0.4%)
- RE: (Validation 3.2%; Status 2.9%)
- 30-Day: (Validation 0.1%; Status 0.2%)

Seventh grade:

- TME: (Validation 0.3%; Status 1.3%)
- PME: (Validation 0.4%; Status 0.4%)
- RE: (Validation 2.1%; Status 1.7%)
- 30-Day: (Validation 0.0%; Status 0.1%)

The rate of students out of compliance because they had **no immunization record or exemption** were: Validation 0.3%; Status 0.1% for KG and Validation 1.6%; Status 0.2% for seventh grade.

Because field staff representatives review the records selected for the Validation Assessment, more information about the documentation of the records is obtained and analyzed. For instance, students were out of compliance because their DH Form 680 or exemption were improperly certified. That is, expired TME or 30-Day Exemption, incorrect Part A or B; had an old Part A on file from KG instead of one certified for seventh grade; or form not signed or dated. Of these, 2.4% (KG) and 5.5% (seventh) were **not** Fully Immunized and 0.8% (KG) and 6.5% (seventh) **were** Fully Immunized (Table 1).

Field staff representatives also collected dose-specific vaccine information. The rates for KG were 94.3% (≥4 DTaP); 94.5% (≥3 IPV); 95.1% (2 MMR); 95.5% (3 hepatitis B); 94.8% (2 varicella); and 0.3% (varicella disease history) [95.0% total varicella] (Table 2). The rates for seventh grade were 91.3% (Tdap); 95.7% (2 MMR); 95.6% (3 hepatitis B); 94.6% (2 varicella); and 1.1% (varicella disease history) [95.7% total varicella] (Table 3).

Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment, 2018–19 School Year
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Please continue to partner with local schools, school districts, managed care organizations, and private health care providers to promote the *Recommended Immunization Schedule for Child and Adolescents, ages 18 years or younger, 2019*, located on the Internet at cdc.gov/vaccines/schedules/hcp/imz/child-adolescent.html. If you have questions regarding this assessment, please contact our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-901-6806.

CB/AR/aw
Enclosures

cc: Florida Department of Education
 Monica Verra-Tirado, EdD, Chief, Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services
 Reid, Chief, Bureau PK-20 Education Data Warehouse
 Andrew Weatherill, Director, Bureau of Resource & Information, Student Support Services
Florida Department of Health
 Beth A. Paterniti, MPA, Director, County Health Systems
 Jennifer S. Johnson, MPH, Interim Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health
 Ursula Keller Weiss, MD, Chief, Bureau of Community Health Assessment
 Faye Rozwadowski, MD, Interim Chief, Bureau of Epidemiology
 Amy C. Riggen, BSN, RN, Administrator, Immunization Section
 Shay Chapman, MBA, RN, Chief, Bureau of Family Health Services
 Jeanne Lane, CPM, ASQ-CQIA, Chief, Bureau of Performance Assessment and Improvement
 County Health Department Nursing Directors
 Immunization Section Field Staff Representative

Table 1				
Immunization Status of Kindergarten and Seventh-Grade Students Comparison of Annual Status Report¹ and Validation Assessment Florida, 2018–2019 School Year				
	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Status Report	Validation Assessment	Status Report	Validation Assessment
Number of Students	224,641	1,200	243,835	1,200
	%	% ²	%	% ²
Percent Fully Immunized	93.8 ³	92.9 ³ ± 1.5	96.3 ⁴	90.2 ⁴ ± 1.7
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions (TME)	2.7 ⁵	1.0 ± 0.6	1.3 ⁵	0.3 ± 0.3
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.4	0.1 ± 0.2	0.4	0.4 ± 0.4
Percent Religious Exemptions	2.9	3.2 ± 1.0	1.7	2.1 ± 0.8
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.2 ⁵	0.1 ± 0.2	0.1 ⁵	0.0 ± 0.0
Out of Compliance: Percent No Immunization Record (DH Form 680) or Exemption	0.1	0.3 ± 0.3	0.2	1.6 ± 0.7
Out of Compliance: Percent Improperly Certified Immunization Record (DH Form 680) or Exemption, NOT Fully Immunized	unknown	2.4 ± 0.9	unknown	5.5 ± 1.3
Out of Compliance: Percent Improperly Certified Immunization Record (DH Form 680) or Exemption, Fully Immunized	unknown	0.8 ± 1.6	unknown	6.5 ± 1.4
Out of Compliance: Total ALL	0.1	3.6 ± 1.1	0.2	13.6 ± 1.9

¹*Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report 2018–19*, published on April 22, 2019, which provides the compulsory immunization status of all KG and seventh-grade students enrolled in the 67 county-specific public school districts (excluding those enrolled in virtual or home education), and in the reporting private schools.

²Percent (%) ± 95% confidence interval.

³Percent of kindergarten students who received four or five[†] doses of DTaP (diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis) vaccine; three, four, or five[±] doses of polio vaccine; two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine; three doses of hepatitis B vaccine; and two doses of varicella vaccine (or documented disease history). [†]The fifth dose of DTaP vaccine is not necessary if the fourth dose was administered at age 4 years or older. [±]If four or more doses of IPV were administered before age 4 years, an additional dose should be administered at age 4 through 6 years and at least six months after the previous dose. A fourth dose of IPV is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least six months after the previous dose.

⁴Percent of seventh-grade students who received one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine in addition to the vaccines required for KG.

⁵Includes an unknown portion of students whose exemption has expired, and are therefore out of compliance with school entry and attendance immunization requirements.

Table 2 Validation Assessment, Kindergarten Florida, 2018–2019 School Year	
Number of Students	1,200
	% ¹
Percent Fully Immunized ²	92.9 ± 1.5
Percent 4 or 5 doses DTaP	94.3 ± 1.3
Percent 3, 4, or 5 doses IPV	94.5 ± 1.3
Percent 2 doses MMR	95.1 ± 1.2
Percent 3 doses hepatitis B	95.5 ± 1.2
Percent 2 doses Varicella	94.8 ± 1.3
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.3 ± 0.3

¹Percent (%) ± 95% confidence interval.

²Percent of kindergarten students who received four or five[†] doses of DTaP (diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and acellular pertussis) vaccine; three, four, or five[‡] doses of polio vaccine; two doses of MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella) vaccine; three doses of hepatitis B vaccine; and two doses of varicella vaccine (or documented disease history). [†]The fifth dose of DTaP vaccine is not necessary if the fourth dose was administered at age 4 years or older. [‡]If four or more doses of IPV were administered before age 4 years, an additional dose should be administered at age 4 through 6 years and at least six months after the previous dose. A fourth dose of IPV is not necessary if the third dose was administered at age 4 years or older and at least six months after the previous dose.

Table 3 Validation Assessment, Seventh Grade Florida, 2018–2019 School Year	
Number of Students	1,200
	% ¹
Percent Fully Immunized ²	90.2 ± 1.7
Percent 1 dose Tdap	91.3 ± 1.6
Percent 2 doses MMR	95.7 ± 1.2
Percent 3 doses hepatitis B	95.6 ± 1.2
Percent 2 doses Varicella	94.6 ± 1.3
Percent Varicella Disease History	1.1 ± 0.6

¹Percent (%) ± 95% confidence interval.

²Percent of seventh grade students who received one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine in addition to the vaccines required for KG.