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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** August 18, 2009  
**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
**FROM:** Michael Sentman  
Acting Deputy Secretary for Health  
**SUBJECT:** Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment  
School Year 2008-2009

### FOR INFORMATION ONLY

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Each October, all public and private schools submit reports indicating the immunization status of their kindergarten and/or seventh grade students, as required by section 1003.22(8), *Florida Statutes*. County health departments (CHDs) and Department of Education staff compile and submit this data to the Bureau of Immunization (BOI) for tabulation. By May, CHDs receive the results of the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report*. BOI field staff conducts an annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment* to evaluate the accuracy of the status report results and to determine if improvement in immunization levels occurred since the initial assessment. Below are the findings of the validation assessment.

#### **Method:**

The BOI randomly selected 91 schools with a kindergarten and 121 schools with a seventh grade. Field staff then audited 908 kindergarten student records and 1,207 seventh grade student records in both the public and private sectors.

#### **Results:**

- 95.3% of kindergarten students were fully immunized, which is significantly higher than 89.8% reported in the status report for all kindergarten students in Florida (*Target: 95%*).
- 94.7% of seventh-grade students were fully immunized, compared to 93.7% reported in the status report for all seventh grade students in Florida (*Target: 90%*).
- 6.8% of students in kindergarten and 5.5% of students in the seventh-grade had improper or no documentation of immunizations.

#### **Concerns:**

Section 1003.22, *Florida Statutes*, offers no provision for students to attend school without proper immunization documentation. However, the validation assessment reveals that 6.8% of kindergarten students and 5.5% of seventh-grade students attend school without proper immunization documentation. These percentages are significantly higher than last school year,

with 1.8% and 1.0% respectively. CHDs should work closely with schools to exclude and refer students for needed immunizations and/or documentation prior to school return. Typically, compliance with the requirement is readily obtained when students are excluded from school.

The validation assessment shows 2.6% of kindergarten students and 0.4% of seventh-grade students have temporary medical exemptions and require follow-up. CHDs should collaborate with public and private schools to ensure adequate follow-up and tracking methods are maintained for students holding temporary medical exemptions.

In conclusion, parents, healthcare providers, school health staff, and CHDs must prioritize completion of all school-entry-required vaccines prior to entry into kindergarten and seventh grade to guarantee adequate immunization and protection of students. Reviews will continue to include the second Varicella for kindergarten students, and the completion of the hepatitis B series and second MMR for seventh-grade students, in addition to the Td/Tdap and Varicella requirement.

CHDs should work with local community partners to promote implementation of the *Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practices* and use of the latest Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and by all health professionals involved in the immunization of children.

If you have any questions, please call Amy Wilson, our survey and assessment analyst, at (850) 245-4342, extension 2395.

MS/cha/aw

Enclosures

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Table 1

**IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF KINDERGARTEN AND SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS  
COMPARISON OF ANNUAL IMMUNIZATION ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION  
FLORIDA, 2008/09**

	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	ASSESSMENT	VALIDATION	ASSESSMENT	VALIDATION
Survey Enrollment	217,814	1,178	221,046	1,207
Percent Fully Immunized	89.8	95.3* ± 1.1	93.7	94.7† ± 1.3
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	6.9	2.4 ± 0.9	4.4	0.4 ± 0.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.3	0.1 ± 0.2	0.3	0.3 ± 0.2
Percent Religious Exemptions	0.9	0.7 ± 0.4	0.5	1.5 ± 0.5
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	1.9	0.0 ± 0.0	0.8	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent with Improper or No Immunization Records	0.2	7.2 ± 1.5	0.2	5.5 ± 1.3

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\* 5 DTaP; 4 polio; 2 measles, 2 mumps, 2 rubella (preferably as 2 MMR); 3 hepatitis B; 2 varicella; **OR** 4 DTaP; 3 polio; 2 measles, 2 mumps, 2 rubella (preferably as 2 MMR); 3 hepatitis B; 2 varicella, if the 4th DTaP and 3rd polio were given on or after the 4th birthday)

† A booster dose of tetanus-diphtheria (preferably Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis vaccine)), a second dose of measles (preferably MMR), and three doses of hepatitis B, in addition to all other compulsory school immunizations.

Table 2

**STATEWIDE KINDERGARTEN VALIDATION ASSESSMENT  
FLORIDA, 2008/09 SCHOOL YEAR**

Survey Enrollment	1,178
Percent Fully Immunized	95.3 ± 1.1
Percent Proper Documentation	92.8 ± 1.5
Percent 5+ DTaP	97.3 ± 0.9
Percent 4+ DTaP	99.1 ± 0.5
Percent 3+ DTaP	99.2 ± 0.5
Percent 4+ Polio	97.7 ± 0.8
Percent 3+ Polio	99.1 ± 0.5
Percent 2 MMR	98.1 ± 0.7
Percent 1+ MMR	99.2 ± 0.5
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	99.0 ± 0.6
Percent 2+ Hepatitis B	99.2 ± 0.5
Percent 1+ Hepatitis B	99.2 ± 0.5
Percent 2 Varicella	95.6 ± 1.1
Percent 1+ Varicella	99.0 ± 0.5

Table 3

**STATEWIDE SEVENTH GRADE VALIDATION ASSESSMENT  
FLORIDA, 2008/09 SCHOOL YEAR**

Survey Enrollment	1,207
Percent Fully Immunized	94.7 ± 1.3
Percent Proper Documentation	94.5 ± 1.3
Percent Tetanus-Diphtheria Booster	95.7 ± 1.0
Percent 2nd Measles (MMR)	97.2 ± 1.0
Percent 3+ Hepatitis B	97.3 ± 0.7
Percent 2+ Hepatitis B	97.4 ± 0.7
Percent 1+ Hepatitis B	98.0 ± 0.6