



Rick Scott  
Governor

Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting State Surgeon General

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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 23, 2011  
**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators  
**FROM:** Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Acting State Surgeon General  
Signature on file  
**SUBJECT:** Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment  
School Year 2010-2011

### 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. Later, CHDs receive the results of the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report*. In follow-up, BOI field staff conducts 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 since the initial assessment. Below are the findings of the validation assessment.

#### **Method:**

The BOI randomly selected 120 schools with a kindergarten and 120 schools with a seventh grade. Field staff then audited 1,200 kindergarten student records and 1,200 seventh grade student records in both the public and private sectors.

#### **Results:**

- 96.2% of kindergarten students were fully immunized, which is significantly higher than 91.3% reported in the status report for all kindergarten students in Florida (*Target: 95%*).
- 92.3% of seventh-grade students were fully immunized, compared to 94.7% reported in the status report for all seventh grade students in Florida (*Target: 90%*).
- 8.4% of students in kindergarten and 10.9% 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 8.4% of kindergarten students and 10.9% of seventh-grade students attend school without proper immunization documentation. These percentages are significantly higher than the previous

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school year, with 0.4% and 2.1% respectively. This assessment shows 1.2% of kindergarten students and 1.5% of seventh-grade students have temporary medical exemptions (TMEs) and require follow-up.

County health departments should work closely with schools to ensure they maintain adequate follow-up and tracking methods for students holding TMEs. In addition, schools should exclude and/or refer students who are not in compliance with immunization requirements, or need proper immunization documentation, to their healthcare provider or a CHD.

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

SRT/cha/aw  
Enclosures

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<b>Table 1</b>				
<b>Immunization Status of Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Students Comparison of Annual Immunization Assessment and Validation Florida, 2010-2011 School Year</b>				
	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Assessment	Validation	Assessment	Validation
Survey Enrollment	219,254	1,200	220,846	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	91.3 <sup>1</sup>	96.2 <sup>1</sup> ± 1.1	94.7 <sup>2</sup>	92.3 <sup>2</sup> ± 1.5
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	5.8	1.2 ± 0.6	3.7	1.5 ± 0.7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.3	0.0 ± 0.0	0.3	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent Religious Exemptions	1.1	0.7 ± 0.5	0.7	0.4 ± 0.4
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	1.4	0.2 ± 0.2	0.5	0.2 ± 0.2
Percent with Improper or No Immunization Records	0.1	8.4 ± 1.6	0.1	10.9 ± 1.8

<sup>1</sup>Four or more doses of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/DT); 3 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine; 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine; 3 doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and 2 doses of varicella vaccine (or proof of serological evidence of immunity or disease history). If the 4<sup>th</sup> DTaP and 3<sup>rd</sup> polio were given on or after the 4<sup>th</sup> birthday, an additional dose is not required.

<sup>2</sup>One dose of Tdap (tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis) vaccine, 2 doses of MMR vaccine, 3 doses of Hepatitis B vaccine, and 1 dose of varicella vaccine (or proof of serological evidence of immunity or disease history), in addition to all other compulsory school immunizations.

<b>Table 2</b>	
Statewide Kindergarten Validation Assessment Florida, 2010-2011 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	96.2 <sup>1</sup> ± 1.1
Percent Proper Documentation	91.6 ± 1.6
Percent 5 DTaP	91.1 ± 1.6
Percent 4 DTaP	98.9 ± 0.6
Percent 4 Polio	91.5 ± 1.6
Percent 3 Polio	99.0 ± 0.6
Percent 2 MMR	98.3 ± 0.7
Percent 1 MMR	99.2 ± 0.5
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	98.0 ± 0.8
Percent 2 Varicella	97.3 ± 0.9
Percent 1 Varicella	98.5 ± 0.7
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.8 ± 0.5

<b>Table 3</b>	
Statewide Seventh Grade Validation Assessment Florida, 2010-2011 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized	92.3 <sup>2</sup> ± 1.5
Percent Proper Documentation	89.1 ± 1.8
Percent Tdap or Td Booster	98.9 ± 0.6
Percent Tdap	93.4 ± 1.4
Percent Td	5.5 ± 1.3
Percent 2 Measles (MMR)	99.1 ± 0.5
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	98.8 ± 0.6
Percent 2 Hepatitis B	99.4 ± 0.4
Percent Varicella Vaccine or Disease History	98.7 ± 0.6