



Rick Scott  
Governor

Steven L. Harris, M.D., M.Sc.  
Interim State Surgeon General

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## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 27, 2012

**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators

**FROM:** Steven L. Harris, M.D., M.Sc.  
Interim State Surgeon General

**SUBJECT:** Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment  
School Year 2011-2012

### 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 generated two simple, random samples of 120 schools with a kindergarten and 120 schools with a seventh grade. Field staff then audited 10 randomly selected immunization records from each of these schools. Of these, one school from both samples was eliminated due to an insufficient number of records audited. Therefore, this survey reflects 119 schools with a kindergarten and 119 schools with a seventh grade.

#### **Results:**

- 96.7% of kindergarten students were fully immunized, which is significantly higher than 92.6% reported in the status report for all kindergarten students in Florida (*Target: 95%*).
- 94.5% of seventh-grade students were fully immunized, compared to 95.4% reported in the status report for all seventh-grade students in Florida (*Target: 90%*).
- 12% of students in kindergarten and 8.2% of students in 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, 10.1% of the immunization records audited

Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment  
School Year 2011-2012  
Page Two  
March 27, 2012

were improperly documented. Of the 143 kindergarten records with documentation errors, 91 (63.6%) were Temporary Medical Exemptions (TME), given to children who met the immunization requirements for kindergarten entry and attendance.

The percentage of TMEs documented in the *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report 2011-2012* (4.3% for kindergarten and 2.6% for seventh grade) would be significantly reduced if TMEs were not issued as a reminder or recall tool.

County health departments should work closely with schools to ensure proper understanding and documentation of student immunization records, and that 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.

SLH/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, 2011-2012 School Year</b>				
	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Assessment	Validation	Assessment	Validation
Survey Enrollment	225,532	1,190	225,378	1,190
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccine	92.6 <sup>1</sup>	96.7 <sup>1</sup> ± 1.0	95.4 <sup>2</sup>	94.5 <sup>2</sup> ± 1.3
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	4.3	1.5 ± 0.7	2.6	0.5 ± 0.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.3	0.0 ± 0.0	0.3	0.3 ± 0.3
Percent Religious Exemptions	1.2	1.4 ± 0.7	0.8	0.8 ± 0.5
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	1.4	0.0 ± 0.0	0.3	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent with Improper or No Immunization Records	0.2	12.0 ± 1.8	0.6	8.2 ± 1.6

<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, 2011-2012 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,190
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	96.7 <sup>1</sup> ± 1.0
Percent Proper Documentation	88.0 ± 1.8
Percent 5 DTaP	93.8 ± 1.4
Percent 4 DTaP	98.4 ± 0.7
Percent 4 Polio	95.9 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Polio	98.7 ± 0.7
Percent 2 MMR	97.6 ± 0.9
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	98.3 ± 0.7
Percent 2 Varicella	96.6 ± 1.0
Percent Varicella Disease History	1.2 ± 0.6

<b>Table 3</b>	
Statewide Seventh Grade Validation Assessment Florida, 2011-2012 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,190
Percent Fully Immunized	94.5 <sup>2</sup> ± 1.3
Percent Proper Documentation	91.8 ± 1.6
Percent Tdap or Td Booster	97.0 ± 1.0
Percent Tdap	95.0 ± 1.2
Percent Td	2.0 ± 0.8
Percent 2 Measles (MMR)	98.7 ± 0.6
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	98.7 ± 0.6
Percent 2 Hepatitis B	98.8 ± 0.6
Percent Varicella Vaccine or Disease History	99.0 ± 0.6