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**DATE:** April 19, 2010

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

**FROM:** Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H.  
Deputy Secretary for Health

**SUBJECT:** Florida Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment  
2009-2010

**INFORMATION ONLY – Signature on File**

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In March 2010, the Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization (BOI) completed the annual survey of immunization levels of randomly selected childcare and Head Start facilities located throughout the state. The BOI field staff visited a total of 133 licensed childcare facilities and 134 Head Start facilities from October 6, 2009 to March 1, 2010. The department conducted this assessment to evaluate the immunization status of preschool children in accordance with the schedule recommended by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) of the United States Public Health Service and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

**Survey Purposes**

- To obtain a statewide representation of immunization levels in childcare populations in relation to the state and national goal of 90% coverage
- To determine the percentage of preschool children attending these facilities who are age-appropriately immunized
- To determine the level of compliance with immunization regulations at childcare and Head Start facilities
- To identify children with adequate immunization levels who have expired certificates or lack proper documentation of immunizations

**Survey Results**

Table 1 of the enclosure indicates vaccine-specific levels for children 19 months of age and older. Table 2 provides immunization data for children under 19 months of age.

**Head Start Facilities:**

There were 134 Head Start facilities randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, BOI field staff reviewed 1,279 randomly selected records, which included 103 children under 19 months of age and 1,176 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per facility).

Analysis of this data indicates 94.2 % of children under 19 months of age were not due for immunizations at the time of the assessment, and 97.4% of children 19 months and older were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP/DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and are up to date for Hib.

**Childcare Facilities:**

There were 133 childcare facilities randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, BOI field staff reviewed 1,590 randomly selected records, which included 431 children under 19 months of age and 1,159 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per facility).

Analysis of this data indicates 93.3% of children under 19 months of age were not due for immunizations at the time of the assessment, and 94.5% of children 19 months and older were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP/DTP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and are complete for Hib.

**Concerns**

The assessment shows that 4.4% of children less than 19 months old who attend childcare facilities are past due for an immunization. These children, as well as those with temporary medical exemptions, are not adequately protected against vaccine-preventable diseases. The Department of Children and Families' District Child Care Licensing Specialists and county health department staff should work closely with childcare facilities to ensure these facilities maintain an adequate tracking and follow-up method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Agencies responsible for licensing childcare facilities must diligently ensure compliance with immunization requirements listed in Rule 65C-22.006, Florida Administrative Code, Child Care Standards. Children must be age-appropriately immunized, with proper documentation supporting the child's current immunization status.

The BOI thanks Head Start officials, childcare licensing specialists, and participating childcare and county health department staff for their assistance with this assessment. Each of us plays an integral role in the continuing mission to protect Florida's families and visitors from vaccine-preventable diseases.

SRT/cha/aw

Enclosure

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cc: (continued)

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**Table 1**

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN ≥ 19 MONTHS OLD  
IN CHILDCARE AND HEAD START FACILITIES, BY PERCENT  
FLORIDA, 2009-2010**

	<b>HEAD START FACILITIES</b>	<b>CHILDCARE FACILITIES</b>
Number Records Reviewed	1,176	1,159
Percent Fully Immunized±	97.4 ± 0.9	94.5 ± 1.3
Percent Proper Documentation	96.7 ± 1.0	96.2 ± 1.1
Percent Temporary Exemption	1.1 ± 0.6	1.9 ± 0.8
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent Religious Exemption	0.1 ± 0.2	0.9 ± 0.5
Percent 30 Day Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent 4+ DTaP/DTP	98.8 ± 0.6	97.5 ± 0.9
Percent 3+ Polio	99.4 ± 0.4	98.7 ± 0.7
Percent 1+ MMR	99.6 ± 0.4	98.2 ± 0.8
Percent Hib complete*	99.3 ± 0.5	98.4 ± 0.7
Percent Varicella compliant**	99.6 ± 0.4	98.1 ± 0.8
Percent Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV) complete*	99.1 ± 0.5	98.0 ± 0.8

± 4 or more doses of TDaP/DTP vaccine, 3 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 1 or more doses of measles-mumps-rubella (MMR) vaccine, complete for Haemophilus influenzae type b (Hib) vaccine, and 1 or more doses of Varicella vaccine or disease history.

\*up to date for age

\*\*up to date on the antigen or immune through disease history

**Table 2**

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN < 19 MONTHS OLD  
IN CHILDCARE AND HEAD START FACILITIES, BY PERCENT  
FLORIDA, 2009-2010**

	<b>HEAD START FACILITIES</b>	<b>CHILDCARE FACILITIES</b>
Number Records Reviewed	103	431
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.2 ± 4.5	93.3 ± 2.4
Percent Past Due	1.9 ± 2.7	4.4 ± 1.9
Percent With No Form; Enrolled < 30 Days; Religious Exemption, and Permanent Medical Exemption	3.9 ± 3.7	2.3 ± 1.4