

**Mission:**

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



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

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

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**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**DATE:** May 13, 2013

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

**FROM:** Dennis V. Cookro, M.D., M.P.H. *Victor Johnson for Dr. Dennis Cookro*  
(Interim) Deputy Secretary for Health

**SUBJECT:** Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2012-2013

**INFORMATION ONLY**

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In March 2013, the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection Immunization Section (Immunization Section) completed the annual *Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment 2012-2013*. This assessment assists the department in evaluating 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.

**Purpose:**

- 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

**Method:**

The Immunization Section generated a "Master List of Child Care Providers Statewide" from the Florida Department of Children and Families website, eliminating facilities that did not fit our sample selection criteria (i.e. before-and-after school programs, facilities with less than ten children enrolled, and Head Start facilities).

We then generated a "Head Start Locator" list from the Head Start Early Childhood Learning & Knowledge Center website, eliminating migrant and seasonal facilities. Because childcare facilities made up 93% (or 5,563), and Head Start facilities made up 7% (or 437) of all Florida child and daycare facilities, the samples were pulled using this methodology.

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Of the 240 facilities needed, this equated to 223 childcare facilities and 17 Head Start facilities. We assigned each childcare facility a number and generated a simple random sample of 223 numbers ranging from one to 5,563. The 223 childcare facilities selected became the childcare sample. We assigned each Head Start facility a number and generated a simple random sample of 17 numbers ranging from one to 437. The 17 Head Start facilities selected became the Head Start sample.

Combining the 240 childcare and Head Start facilities, field staff audited ten randomly selected immunization records of children 19 months of age and older (19 – 59 months of age), per facility, totaling 2,400 immunization records. Field staff also audited *up to* ten randomly selected records of children under 19 months of age, per facility if applicable, totaling 890 immunization records. The results of this report reflect those 3,290 randomly selected records.

### **Childcare Results:**

Of the children 19 months of age and older, 93% were fully immunized with 4 DTap, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and up-to-date for Hib and PCV. Of the children under 19 months of age, 86% were not due for immunization at the time of the assessment. They were up-to-date for their age. Additionally, 92.9% of the children under 19 months of age had properly documented immunization records.

### **Head Start Results:**

Of the children 19 months of age and older, 96.5% were fully immunized with 4 DTap, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, 1 Varicella, and up-to-date for Hib and PCV. Of the children under 19 months of age, 94.9% were not due for immunization at the time of the assessment. This same percentage had properly documented immunization records.

### **Concerns:**

Rule 65C-22.006, *Florida Administrative Code*, offers a 30-day provision for children to attend childcare facilities without proper immunization documentation. However, 8.7% of the 2,230 immunization records audited were improperly documented. Of children less than 19 months of age, 11.1% are past due for an immunization. These children, as well as those with exemptions from immunization, 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 Immunization Section 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.

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If you have questions regarding the methodology of this assessment, please contact our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at (850) 245-4342, extension 2395. All other questions related to this assessment should be directed to the Area (county specific) Immunization Section field staff (see enclosure).

DC/CHA/aw

Enclosures

cc: Deborah Russo, Director of Child Care Services  
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Immunization Section  
Immunization Section Field Staff

Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment  
2012 - 2013 School Year

<b>Table 1</b>		
<b>Immunization Levels of Children <math>\geq</math> 19 Months of Age</b>		
	Head Start Facilities	Childcare Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	170	2,230
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines <sup>1</sup>	96.5 $\pm$ 2.8	93.0 $\pm$ 1.1
Percent Proper Documentation	95.9 $\pm$ 3.0	91.3 $\pm$ 1.2
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines <sup>1</sup>	2.4 $\pm$ 2.3	3.1 $\pm$ 0.7
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0	0.0 $\pm$ 0.1
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0	2.3 $\pm$ 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0	0.2 $\pm$ 0.2
Percent 4 DTaP	99.4 $\pm$ 1.1	95.0 $\pm$ 0.9
Percent 3 Polio	99.4 $\pm$ 1.1	96.5 $\pm$ 0.8
Percent 1 MMR	100 $\pm$ 0.0	96.3 $\pm$ 0.8
Percent Hib complete <sup>2</sup>	98.8 $\pm$ 1.6	96.1 $\pm$ 0.8
Percent Varicella compliant <sup>3</sup>	100 $\pm$ 0.0	96.3 $\pm$ 0.8
Percent Pneumococcal (PCV) complete <sup>2</sup>	98.8 $\pm$ 1.6	96.0 $\pm$ 0.8

<b>Table 2</b>		
<b>Immunization Levels of Children <math>&lt;</math> 19 Months of Age</b>		
	Head Start Facilities	Childcare Facilities
Number Records Reviewed	59	831
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.9 $\pm$ 5.6	86.0 $\pm$ 2.4
Percent Past Due Immunizations	3.4 $\pm$ 4.6	11.1 $\pm$ 2.1
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled $<$ 30 Days	1.7 $\pm$ 3.3	2.9 $\pm$ 1.1
Percent Proper Documentation	94.9 $\pm$ 5.6	92.9 $\pm$ 1.7

<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; 1 or more doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine; complete for age for *Haemophilus influenzae type b* (Hib) vaccine and Pneumococcal Conjugate (PCV) vaccine; and 1 or more doses of Varicella vaccine (or disease history).

<sup>2</sup> Up-to-date for age.

<sup>3</sup> One or more doses of vaccine or disease history.

Childcare and Head Start Facilities Immunization Assessment  
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<b>Table 3</b>				
<b>Childcare Facilities, By School Year, 2009-10 through 2012-13</b>				
<b>Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Number Records Reviewed	1,159	1,200	1,200	2,230
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	94.5	91.8	96.0	93.0
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.9	7.3	2.2	3.1
Percent Proper Documentation	96.2	90.3	92.7	91.3
<b>Immunization Levels of Children &lt; 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Number Records Reviewed	431	426	515	831
Percent Not Due Immunizations	93.3	91.3	95.7	86.0
Percent Past Due	4.4	3.3	3.9	11.1
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	2.3	5.4	0.4	2.9
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	84.7	92.9

<b>Table 4</b>				
<b>Head Start Facilities, By School Year, 2009-10 through 2012-13</b>				
<b>Immunization Levels of Children ≥ 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Number Records Reviewed	1,176	1,200	1,190	170
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	97.4	96.4	97.1	96.5
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines	1.1	2.8	1.8	2.4
Percent Proper Documentation	96.7	91.6	90.8	95.9
<b>Immunization Levels of Children &lt; 19 Months of Age</b>	<b>2009-10</b>	<b>2010-11</b>	<b>2011-12</b>	<b>2012-13</b>
Number Records Reviewed	103	231	216	59
Percent Not Due Immunizations	94.2	94.8	91.7	94.9
Percent Past Due	1.9	1.7	4.6	3.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or Enrolled <30 Days	3.9	3.5	3.7	1.7
Percent Proper Documentation	N/A <sup>1</sup>	N/A <sup>1</sup>	53.7	94.9

<sup>1</sup>Prior to the 2011-2012 school year, Proper Documentation data was not gathered for children under 19 months of a ge.