

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

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 17, 2015

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators

FROM: Anna Marie Likos, MD, MPH *Anna M. Likos, MD, MPH*
Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment School Year 2014–2015

INFORMATION ONLY

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 department (CHD) and Department of Education (DOE) staff compiles and submits these data to the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection Immunization Section (Immunization Section) for tabulation. These are then published in the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report (Status Report)*.

Since the data are self-reported, the Immunization Section field staff conducts an annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment (Validation Assessment)* to evaluate accuracy of the *Status Report* results and to determine if improvement in immunization levels occurred. Below are the findings of the *Validation Assessment*.

Method:

The ratio of Florida kindergartens fitting sample selection criteria was 77 percent public and 23 percent private. Based on the ratio, 120 kindergartens were randomly selected: 92 public and 28 private. The ratio of schools with a seventh grade was 67 percent public and 33 percent private. Based on the ratio, 120 schools were also randomly selected: 80 public and 40 private. The public population was obtained from the DOE's *Membership by School by Grade* report, while the private population was obtained from the DOE's *Florida Private Schools Directory*.

Field staff audited ten randomly selected immunization records per school, totaling 240 schools (or 2,400 immunization records). The results of this report reflect those 2,400 randomly selected records.

Results:

- The rate of kindergarten students who received all required immunizations for their grade was 93.9 percent; similar to the 93.3 percent reported in the *Status Report* for all kindergarten students in Florida. (State and national goal: 95 percent)

Florida Department of Health

Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
Bureau of Communicable Diseases • Immunization Section
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-11 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719
PHONE: 850/245-4342 • FAX 850/922-4195

www.FloridaHealth.gov

TWITTER: HealthyFLA
FACEBOOK: FLDepartmentofHealth
YOUTUBE: fldoh
FLICKR: HealthyFla
PINTEREST: HealthyFla

- The rate of seventh-grade students who received all required immunizations for their grade was 92.4 percent, compared to 95.7 percent reported in the *Status Report* for all seventh-grade students in Florida. (State goal: 95 percent; national goal: 90 percent).
- The rates of kindergarten and seventh-grade students who had either no immunization record (DH 680 Form) or had a record with documentation errors was 5.6 percent and 16.5 percent respectively, compared to the percentage of students categorized as “Out-of-Compliance” (OOC) in the *Status Report*: 0.1 percent and 0.2 percent, respectively.
- The percentile differences for kindergarten students was primarily due to schools categorizing (at our request) those students who received all required immunizations for their grade **and had** documentation errors on their DH 680 Form, as being complete for kindergarten (Part A). That request was due to the substantial number of DH 680 Forms improperly certified as a Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) (Part B).
- The percentile differences for seventh-grade students was primarily due to:
 - Medical providers incorrectly certifying DH 680 Forms as Part A for students who did not receive the required dose of Tetanus Toxoid, Reduced Diphtheria Toxoid, and Acellular Pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.
 - Schools not consistently enforcing the Tdap requirement for students prior to school entry or attendance; therefore, outdated (or no) immunization record was on file.

Opportunities for Improvement:

Section 1003.22 offers no provision for students to attend school without proper immunization documentation. However, 11.1 percent of the records audited were missing or had documentation errors. To improve the errors the following actions are recommended:

- Contact those medical providers who incorrectly certified DH 680 Forms. Provide the *Creating Forms in Florida SHOTS* link regarding electronic immunization record certification. Provide a physical and/or electronic copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*.
- Contact those schools who reported high rates for TMEs and/or OOC. Consult with the person(s) responsible for verifying student immunization records and request to review those together. Provide guidance related to school immunization requirements as well as provide a copy of the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*. Many times schools report **expired** TMEs as TMEs instead of OOC.
- Contact those schools who reported high rates of TMEs, 30-Day Transfer exemptions, and/or OOCs. If not already in use, explain the benefits of having a reliable tracking system by immunization record expiration date. Many times schools report expired 30-Day Transfer exemptions as 30-Day Transfer exemptions instead of OOC.
- Schools should discontinue allowing **non-transfer** students entry or attendance without a valid immunization record. Instead, refer those students to their health care provider or local CHD for immunization services, and excluded them from school until compliance is met.

Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment
School Year 2014–2015
Page Three
April 17, 2015

If you have questions regarding this assessment, please contact your area field staff representative or our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-245-4342, extension 2395.

CP/RMG/aw
Enclosures

cc: Department of Education
 Monica Verra-Tirado, EdD, Chief
 Beth Moore, Program Director
 Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services
 Todd Clark, Chief
 Bureau of Education Information and Accountability Services
Florida Department of Health
 R.S. Whisenhunt, Chief
 Bureau of Communicable Diseases
 Robert M. Griffin, Interim Administrator
 Immunization Section
 Immunization Section Field Staff
 Donna Coley, MS, CPM, Director
 Office of Performance and Quality Improvement
 County Health Department Nursing Directors
 Shannon Hughes, Interim Director
 Division of Community Health Promotion
 Kris-Tena Albers, CNM, MN, Chief
 Bureau of Family Health Services

Table 1				
Immunization Status of Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Students Comparison of Annual Status Report and Validation Assessment Florida, 2014–2015 School Year				
	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Status Report	Validation Assessment	Status Report	Validation Assessment
Survey Enrollment	233,797	1,200	228,273	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	93.3 ¹	93.9 ¹ ± 1.4	95.7 ²	92.4 ² ± 1.5
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	2.9	0.8 ± 0.5	1.8	0.5 ± 0.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.3	0.1 ± 0.2	0.3	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	1.8	2.1 ± 0.8	1.1	1.2 ± 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	1.6	0.1 ± 0.2	0.9	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent with Improperly Certified or No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	0.1	5.6 ± 1.3	0.2	16.5 ± 2.1

¹Five or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/DT), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. Four doses of DTaP and 3 doses of polio are acceptable if the last dose of each was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

²Four or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines (DTaP/DTP/DT) and 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (preferably as MMR), 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. One dose of Tdap and two doses of Td are acceptable if the CDC catch-up schedule is utilized. Three doses of polio vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

Table 2	
Statewide Kindergarten Validation Assessment Florida, 2014–2015 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	93.9 ¹ ± 1.4
Percent Proper Documentation	94.4 ± 1.3
Percent ≥ 4 DTaP	95.6 ± 1.2
Percent ≥ 3 Polio	95.8 ± 1.1
Percent 2 MMR	95.8 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	96.6 ± 1.0
Percent 2 Varicella	95.4 ± 1.3
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.3 ± 0.3

Table 3	
Statewide Seventh Grade Validation Assessment Florida, 2014–2015 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	92.4 ² ± 1.5
Percent Proper Documentation	83.5 ± 2.1
Percent Tdap	93.9 ± 1.4
Percent 2 MMR	96.9 ± 1.0
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	96.9 ± 1.0
Percent 1 Varicella	96.8 ± 1.0
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.9 ± 0.5

¹Five or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/DT), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. Four doses of DTaP and 3 doses of polio are acceptable if the last dose of each was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

²Four or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines (DTaP/DTP/DT) and 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (preferably as MMR), 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. One dose of Tdap and two doses of Td are acceptable if the CDC catch-up schedule is utilized. Three doses of polio vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.