

Mission:

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



Rick Scott
Governor

Celeste Philip, MD, MPH
Surgeon General and Secretary

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2018
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM
Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection
State Epidemiologist
SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment 2017–18

INFORMATION ONLY

Each October, public and private schools submit reports indicating the immunization status of their kindergarten and seventh-grade students, as required by section 1003.22(8), Florida Statutes. County health department (CHD) and Department of Education (DOE) staff compile and submit these data to the DOH's Division of Disease Control and Health Protection Immunization Section for analysis. These are then published in the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report*.

Since the data are self-reported, the Immunization Section field staff representatives conduct 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. The public school population was derived from the DOE's *Membership by School by Grade* report, while the private school population was derived from the DOE's *Florida Private Schools Directory*. Schools having a membership of ≤ 15 students in those grades the previous school year were eliminated from the sample population.

Simple random samples of 120 kindergarten and 120 seventh grades were generated, totaling 240 schools. As the ratio of the kindergartens fitting sample selection criteria was 67 percent public and 33 percent private, the sample generated was 80 public and 40 private kindergartens. The seventh-grade ratio was 58 percent public and 42 percent private; therefore, the sample generated was 70 public and 50 private schools. Field staff representatives audited 10 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.

Prior to entry or attendance into Florida schools, grades kindergarten through twelve, each student shall have on file a *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680) documenting the following valid immunizations were received: Five or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine; four or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV); two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after the child's

fourth birthday. Prior to seventh-grade entry, students must also receive one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine. This is captured in "Percent Fully Immunized" in the report (see Tables 1, 2, and 3).

Florida's goal is for 95 percent of students entering kindergarten or seventh grade to be immunized with all required vaccines for their grade. The national goal for kindergarten is also 95 percent, with seventh grade being 90 percent. **This year's kindergarten rate was 94.0 percent** (Tables 1 and 2), on target with last year's 93.9 percent. **The seventh-grade rate was 90.8 percent**—down from last year's 93.1 percent.

Each school should have a valid exemption on file for students not fully immunized for their grade. Exemption types include Temporary Medical Exemption (TME) (1.2 percent kindergarten, 0.2 percent seventh grade); Permanent Medical Exemption (0.0 percent kindergarten, 0.1 percent seventh grade); Religious Exemption (2.8 percent kindergarten, 1.7 percent seventh grade); and 30-Day Exemptions (0.0 percent kindergarten, 0.2 percent seventh grade) (Table 1).

The rate of kindergarten and seventh-grade students who had no immunization record on file at school (0.3 percent kindergarten, 1.5 percent seventh grade), compared to the rate on the Status Report (0.1 percent kindergarten, 0.2 percent seventh grade). These students, in addition to those with improperly certified DH Form 680s (3.2 percent kindergarten, 16.2 percent seventh grade), are considered "Out-of-Compliance" (OOC) (Table 1).

Of those improperly certified, 1.7 percent (kindergarten) and 5.4 percent (seventh-grade) were originally properly certified as TMEs, but later became invalid (OOC) because they expired. These errors are due to individual schools not consistently reviewing TMEs on file, and enforcing school immunization requirements. Additionally, there were DH Form 680s improperly certified as "fully immunized" (Part A), for seventh-grade students who did not receive the required dose of Tdap. Although these errors were made by medical providers, individual schools need to do their part to verify receipt of the Tdap vaccine on DH Form 680s, and refer students back to their medical provider or local CHD for said Tdap vaccination and an updated DH Form 680, prior to entry or attendance.

Opportunities for Improvement:

Contact those schools who reported high TME, 30-Day Transfer, or OOC rates. Consult with the person(s) responsible for verifying student immunization records at public and private schools, requesting 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* found at www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/children-and-adolescents/_documents/school-guide.pdf. If not already in use, explain the benefits of having a reliable tracking system by expiration date, of those students with TMEs and 30-Day Transfer exemptions. Often, public schools report **expired** TMEs as [valid] TMEs, and **expired** 30-Day Transfer exemptions as [valid] 30-Day Transfer exemptions, instead of as OOC.

Schools should discontinue allowing non-transfer students entry or attendance without a valid DH Form 680 for their grade. Non-transfer students are those students entering a Florida school from another state, country, or from within the same county as their last school. Instead, those students should be referred to their medical provider or local CHD for immunization services, and excluded from school until compliance is met.

If you have questions regarding this assessment, please contact our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-901-6806.

CB/RMG/aw

Enclosures

April 25, 2018

cc: Department of Education

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County Health Department Nursing Directors

Immunization Section Field Staff Representatives

Table 1

**Immunization Status of Kindergarten and Seventh-Grade Students
Comparison of Annual Status Report¹ and Validation Assessment
Florida, 2017–18 School Year**

	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Status Report ¹	Validation Assessment	Status Report ¹	Validation Assessment
Number of Students	222,397	1,200	232,080	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized (Part A)	93.7 ^{2,3}	94.0 ² ± 1.3	96.2 ^{3,4}	90.8 ⁴ ± 1.6
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions (Part B)	3.1	1.2 ± 0.6	1.6	0.4 ± 0.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.5	0.0 ± 0.0	0.4	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	2.4	2.8 ± 0.9	1.6	1.7 ± 0.7
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	0.2	0.0 ± 0.0	0.1	0.2 ± 0.2
Out-of-Compliance: Percent No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	0.1	0.3 ± 0.3	0.2	1.5 ± 0.7
Out-of-Compliance: Percent Improperly Certified Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	unknown	3.2 ± 1.0	unknown	16.2 ± 2.1

¹*Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report 2017–18*, published on April 17, 2018, which provides the compulsory immunization status of all children (census) attending kindergarten and seventh grades in public and private schools.

²Percent of kindergarten students who received five or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, four or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

³May include vaccine doses administered regardless of timing or interval (invalid) and therefore out-of-compliance.

⁴Percent of seventh-grade students who received four or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis (DTaP) vaccines and one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine, four or more doses of any inactivated poliovirus vaccine, two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine is acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

Table 2	
Statewide Kindergarten Validation Assessment Florida, 2017–18 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized (Part A)	94.0 ¹ ± 1.3
Percent ≥ 4 DTaP	95.4 ± 1.2
Percent ≥ 3 Polio	95.6 ± 1.2
Percent 2 MMR	95.8 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	96.4 ± 1.1
Percent 2 Varicella	95.3 ± 1.2
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.2 ± 0.2

¹Percent of kindergarten students who received five or more doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, four or more doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine (IPV), two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine is acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

Table 3	
Statewide Seventh Grade Validation Assessment Florida, 2017–18 School Year	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized (Part A)	90.8 ² ± 1.6
Percent Tdap	92.2 ± 1.5
Percent 2 MMR	96.0 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	95.8 ± 1.1
Percent 2 Varicella	94.0 ± 1.2
Percent Varicella Disease History	1.2 ± 0.6

²Percent of seventh grade students who received four or more [valid] doses of any diphtheria, tetanus toxoids and pertussis (DTaP) vaccines and one dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis) vaccine, four or more doses of any inactivated poliovirus vaccine, two doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, three or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history). Four doses of DTaP vaccine and three doses of inactivated poliovirus vaccine is acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.