

Mission:

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



Ron DeSantis
Governor

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State Surgeon General

Vision: To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 2, 2020

TO: County Health Department Health Officers

FROM: Carina Blackmore, DVM, PhD, Dipl ACVPM *SS ASC CB*
Director, Division of Disease Control and Health Protection

SUBJECT: Results of the Child Care Facilities Immunization Survey
2018–19 School Year

INFORMATION ONLY

In March 2019, the Immunization Section completed the annual *Child Care Facilities Immunization Survey 2018–19* in collaboration with the Florida Department of Children and Families (DCF). Florida Administrative Code Rule 65C-22.001(6) Child Care Standards incorporates by reference DCF's *Child Care Facility Handbook, October 2017*. Section 7.1 Immunization Records requires licensed child care facilities to obtain for each child in care a current, complete, and properly executed *Florida Certification of Immunization* (DH Form 680) Part A-1, B, or C, or a *Religious Exemption from Immunization* (DH Form 681) within 30 days of enrollment.

This assessment assists the FDOH in estimating immunization coverage levels of children in licensed child care facilities. Children in licensed child care should be immunized with the recommended number of doses of diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis (DTaP) vaccine, poliovirus vaccine (Polio), measles, mumps and rubella (MMR) vaccine, *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine, varicella vaccine (or physician documented disease history), and pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV). The statewide goal is 90 percent coverage.

Although the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices recommends vaccination against hepatitis B, it is not required for entry or attendance into a Florida licensed child care facility. In prior years the Immunization Section reported immunization coverage for this survey as "fully immunized with required vaccines" which could have been mistaken to include hepatitis B vaccination. Therefore, coverage is now reported as "age-appropriately immunized with required vaccines."

The child care facilities surveyed were derived from DCF's *Master List of Child Care Providers*. Facilities with 15 or less children age 19 months or older enrolled the previous school year were eliminated. The remaining facilities (sample population) were assigned a sequential number, and 240 facilities were selected (the sample) using a random number generator. When field staff representatives learned a facility had less than ten children age 19 months or older actively enrolled, a replacement was selected from the same field staff area (region).

From those surveyed facilities, field staff reviewed the immunization records of ten randomly selected children age 19 months or older, totaling 2,400 records. If children age 0 to 18 months were also enrolled, up to 10 records from that age group were randomly selected and reviewed, totaling 990 records. The results of this survey reflect those 3,390 randomly-selected immunization records.

Most children in licensed child care have a DH Form 680 certified as a Part B (Temporary Medical Exemption [TME]), expiring prior to kindergarten entry. Therefore, this survey captures the estimated percent of children with “TMEs without required vaccines” instead of the percent with TMEs. i.e. only those who have not received all doses as listed above (paragraph two).

Of the 2,400 children age 19 months or older, 2,291, or **95.5%**, were age-appropriately immunized with required vaccines. Each facility should have a valid exemption from immunization for children not age-appropriately immunized. Exemptions included TME (19 children, or 0.8%), Part C (Permanent Medical Exemption [PME]) (0, or 0.0%), Religious Exemption (RE) (68, or 2.8%), and 30-Day Exemption (5, or 0.2%) (Table 1), for an overall exemption rate of 3.8%.

Coverage by vaccine type was high for all required vaccines: ≥ 4 DTaP (2,303, or 96.0%); ≥ 3 Polio (2,309 or 96.2%); ≥ 1 MMR (2,304, or 96.0%); ≥ 3 Hib (2,312 or 96.3%); ≥ 1 varicella (or physician documented disease history) (2,306 or 96.1%); and ≥ 3 PCV (2,311 or 96.3%). Ten children, or 0.4%, had no immunization record on file, and seven, or 0.3% were past due for immunization and had expired TMEs. These 17 children are included in number of children who had improperly certified or documented DH Form 680s (77, or 3.2%). All are considered out of compliance (OOC) with child care entry or attendance immunization requirements (Table 1).

Coverage for children age 19 months and older who were age-appropriately immunized with all required vaccines (95.5%) increased by 0.7 percentage points from last school year and is higher than the previous four years, the lowest being 94.7% in 2015–16. The TME rate (0.8%) decreased (improved) by 0.2 percentage points from last school year and is lower than the previous four years, the highest being 1.5% in 2015–16. PME rates have remained at 0.0% for the past five years. REs have been steadily increasing in K–12 schools as well as in licensed child care facilities. This year’s 2.8% is 1.0 percentage point higher than last year, the lowest being 1.8% in 2017–18. The 30-Day exemption rate (0.2%) decreased by 0.2 percentage points from last school year and is lower than the previous four years, the highest being 0.4% in 2017–18 (Table 3).

Coverage remains high and stable with no statistically significant differences for each of the required vaccinations. DTaP coverage improved by 0.2 percentage points from last year with 96.0%, ranging between 95.6% (2014–15 and 2016–17) and 96.0% (2018–19). Polio coverage was the same as last year with 96.2% and was highest in 2014–15 with 96.7%. MMR coverage decreased by 0.7 percentage points from last year with 96.0%, ranging between 96.0% (2018–19) and 96.9% (2014–15 and 2016–17). Hib coverage decreased by 0.7 percentage points from last year with 96.3% (2018–19) and was highest in 2014–15 and 2017–18 with 97.0%. Varicella coverage, which includes children with physician-documented disease history, decreased by 0.4 percentage points from last year with 96.1% and was highest in 2014–15 with 96.9%. Coverage for PCV decreased by 0.6 percentage points from last year with 96.3% and was highest in 2017–18 with 96.9% (Table 3).

The rate of children who had no immunization record on file (0.4%) has remained low the past five years, ranging from 0.1% (2016–17) and 0.6% (2015–16). The rate of children who were past due for immunization and had expired TMEs decreased significantly from 1.5% (2014–15, 2016–17, and 2017–18), to only 0.3% (Table 3).

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Of the 990 children age 0 to 18 months, 914, or 92.3% were not due immunizations at the time of the facility assessment, and 34, or 3.4% had exemptions from immunization, minus TMEs. Forty-two children, or 6.7% were past due for immunization and had expired TMEs. These 42 children are included in number of children who had improperly certified or documented DH Form 680s (66, or 6.7%). All are OOC with child care entry or attendance immunization requirements (Table 2).

In the past five years, coverage rates for this younger age group have not remained consistent. The rate of children not due immunizations (92.3%) decreased by 0.8 percentage points from last year (93.1%), and was lowest in 2015–16, with 87.4%. Children with an exemption from immunization minus TMEs (3.4%) increased significantly from last year (1.8%) and was highest in 2015–16 with 5.2%. OOC rates (4.2%) were the lowest in five years, decreasing 0.9 percentage points from last year (5.1%), and was highest in 2016–17, with 5.1% (Table 4).

After each facility's assessment, child care operators were given a summary form documenting all findings needing corrective action, if any, such as which children were missing vaccines, which received a vaccine at an inappropriate interval (invalid shot), and which had expired exemptions from immunization and are therefore out of compliance.

All child care facilities should have a copy of, and become familiar with, the current *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Childcare Facilities and Family Daycare Homes*, found online at [FloridaHealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/children-and-adolescents/_documents/school-guide.pdf](https://www.floridahealth.gov/programs-and-services/immunization/children-and-adolescents/_documents/school-guide.pdf). They should also have a reliable tracking system, by expiration date, of children with TMEs and 30-Day exemptions. Reminding parents at least two weeks prior to expiration to take their child for follow-up immunizations and an updated DH Form 680 is good practice. CHDs could contact medical providers who incorrectly certify DH Form 680s, providing them the *Creating Forms in Florida SHOTS* online hyperlink, at [FLShots.com/wbt/modules/PPNONVFC/module9/module9.htm](https://www.flshots.com/wbt/modules/PPNONVFC/module9/module9.htm) regarding electronic immunization record certification.

If you have questions regarding this survey, please contact your area field staff representative (see attached list) or our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-901-6806.

CB/AR/aw

Enclosures

cc: Florida Department of Children and Families

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Florida Department of Health

Results of the Child Care Facilities Immunization Assessment, 2018–19 School Year

Table 1. Vaccination coverage for selected vaccines and exemption rates among children aged 19 months and older in licensed child care facilities, Florida, 2018–19 School Year		
	Children n=2,400	% (95% CI)
Age-appropriately Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	2,291	95.5 (0.8)
Temporary Medical Exemptions (TME) without Required Vaccines ¹	19	0.8 (0.4)
Permanent Medical Exemptions	0	0.0 (0.0)
Religious Exemptions	68	2.8 (0.7)
30-Day Exemptions	5	0.2 (0.2)
≥4 DTaP	2,303	96.0 (0.8)
≥3 Polio	2,309	96.2 (0.8)
≥1 MMR	2,304	96.0 (0.8)
≥3 Hib	2,312	96.3 (0.8)
≥1 Varicella ²	2,306	96.1 (0.8)
≥4 PCV	2,311	96.3 (0.8)
Out of Compliance: No Immunization Record (DH Form 680) or Exemption	10	0.4 (0.3)
Out of Compliance: Past Due Immunizations (Expired TMEs)	7	0.3 (0.2)
Out of Compliance: Improperly Certified or Documented Immunization Record (DH 680) or Exemption	77	3.2 (0.7)

Table 2. Immunization status and exemption rates among children aged 0–18 months in licensed child care facilities, Florida, 2018–19 School Year		
	Children n=990	%(95% CI)
Not Due Immunizations ³	914	92.3 (1.7)
Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or 30-Day Exemption	34	3.4 (1.1)
Out of Compliance: Past Due Immunizations	42	4.2 (1.3)
Out of Compliance: Improperly Certified or Documented Immunization Record (DH 680) or Exemption	66	6.7 (1.6)

Abbreviations: CI confidence interval; DTaP=diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis; Hib=*Haemophilus influenzae* type b; Polio= inactivated poliovirus vaccine; MMR=measles, mumps, and rubella; PCV=pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

¹Includes ≥4 doses of any DTaP vaccine, ≥3 doses of Poliovirus vaccine, ≥1 dose of MMR vaccine; ≥3 doses of Hib vaccine, ≥1 dose of varicella vaccine (or physician documented disease history), and ≥4 doses of PCV.

²Includes physician documented disease history.

³Immunizations are current until the next recommended shot interval.

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Results of the Child Care Facilities Immunization Survey, 2018–19 School Year

Table 3. Vaccination coverage for selected vaccines and exemption rates among children aged 19 months and older in licensed child care facilities, Florida, 2014–2018 School Years

Survey Year	% (95% CI)				
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Number of Children	2,400	2,340	2,400	2,400	2,400
Age-appropriately Immunized with Required Vaccines ¹	95.0 (0.9)	94.7 (0.9)	94.8 (0.9)	94.8 (0.9)	95.5 (0.8)
Temporary Medical Exemptions without Required Vaccines ¹	1.0 (0.4)	1.5 (0.5)	1.2 (0.4)	0.9 (0.4)	0.8 (0.4)
Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)	0.0 (0.1)	0.0 (0.0)
Religious Exemptions	2.0 (0.6)	2.0 (0.6)	2.1 (0.6)	1.8 (0.5)	2.8 (0.7)
30-Day Exemptions	0.3 (0.2)	0.2 (0.2)	0.3 (0.2)	0.4 (0.2)	0.2 (0.2)
≥4 DTaP	95.6 (0.8)	95.7 (0.8)	95.6 (0.8)	95.8 (0.8)	96.0 (0.8)
≥3 Polio	96.7 (0.7)	96.6 (0.7)	96.3 (0.8)	96.2 (0.8)	96.2 (0.8)
≥1 MMR	96.9 (0.7)	96.8 (0.7)	96.9 (0.7)	96.7 (0.7)	96.0 (0.8)
≥3 Hib	97.0 (0.7)	96.6 (0.7)	96.8 (0.7)	97.0 (0.7)	96.3 (0.8)
≥1 Varicella ²	96.9 (0.7)	96.5 (0.7)	96.8 (0.7)	96.5 (0.7)	96.1 (0.8)
≥4 PCV	96.6 (0.7)	96.5 (0.7)	96.7 (0.7)	96.9 (0.7)	96.3 (0.8)
Out of Compliance: No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	0.3 (0.2)	0.6 (0.3)	0.1 (0.1)	0.5 (0.3)	0.4 (0.3)
Out of Compliance: Past Due Immunizations	1.5 (0.5)	1.0 (0.4)	1.5 (0.5)	1.5 (0.5)	0.3 (0.2)

Table 4. Immunization status and exemption rates among children aged 0–18 months in licensed child care facilities, Florida, 2014–2018 School Years

Survey Year	% (95% CI)				
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19
Number of Children	887	950	848	945	990
Not Due Immunizations ³	92.2 (1.8)	87.4 (2.1)	89.3 (2.1)	93.1 (1.6)	92.3 (1.7)
Permanent Medical Exemption; Religious Exemption; or 30-Day Exemption	2.3 (1.0)	5.2 (1.4)	3.1 (1.2)	1.8 (0.8)	3.4 (1.1)
Out of Compliance: Past Due Immunizations	5.5 (1.5)	7.5 (1.7)	7.7 (1.8)	5.1 (1.4)	4.2 (1.3)

Abbreviations: CI confidence interval; DTaP=diphtheria, tetanus toxoids, and acellular pertussis; Hib=*Haemophilus influenzae* type b; Polio=inactivated poliovirus vaccine; MMR=measles, mumps, and rubella; PCV=pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

¹Includes ≥4 doses of any DTaP vaccine, ≥3 doses of Polio, ≥1 dose of MMR; ≥3 doses of Hib vaccine, ≥1 dose of varicella vaccine (or physician documented disease history), and ≥4 doses of PCV.

²Includes physician documented disease history.

³Immunizations are current until the next recommended shot interval.