



Jeb Bush
Governor

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INTERAGENCY MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 26, 2005

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators

FROM: Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A. *B. Sorensen*
Deputy State Health Officer

SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment
School Year 2004-2005

INFORMATION ONLY

In October of each year, all public and private schools submit reports regarding the immunization status of their kindergarten and seventh grade students, as required by section 1003.22(8), *Florida Statutes*. County health departments and Department of Education staff compile and send this information to the Bureau of Immunization for tabulation. In March, the county health departments receive the results in the annual Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report. The immunization field staff conduct an annual validation assessment of kindergarten and seventh grade students to evaluate the accuracy of the status report results and to determine if any improvement in immunization levels occurred since the initial assessment. Based on Chapter 64D-3.011(3), *Florida Administrative Code*, which requires each public and nonpublic school with a kindergarten and/or seventh grade to submit an annual compliance report, the Bureau of Immunization's field operations staff initiated steps to obtain preliminary information regarding private school reporting of immunization status and requirements for the 2004-2005 school year. This report addresses the findings of the validation assessment.

Method:

The Bureau of Immunization randomly selected 87 schools with a kindergarten and 297 schools with a seventh grade. The immunization field staff then audited 804 kindergarten student records and 2,669 seventh grade student records in both the public and private sectors. Attachment 1 depicts the comparison between the findings of the validation assessment and the status assessment conducted by the schools, as well as other comparisons. Attachment 2 shows vaccine-specific immunization levels and percent of proper documentation.

Results:

- The validation assessment revealed that 97.2 percent of kindergarten students were fully immunized, a higher percentage than the 93.7 percent reported in the Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Status Report for all kindergarten students in Florida.

- The validation assessment revealed that 90 percent of seventh grade students were fully immunized, which is an 8.3 percent improvement over the 81.7 percent reported in the Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Status Report for all seventh grade students in Florida.
- The validation audit also showed 1.2 percent of students in kindergarten and 5.2 percent of students in seventh grade had improper or no documentation of immunizations.
- According to the preliminary information compiled on private school reporting, 94.8 percent of private schools that had students enrolled in kindergarten and 92.6 percent of private schools that had students enrolled in seventh grade reported to their county health departments.
- The preliminary information compiled revealed major reasons for schools failing to report; for example, the school had closed and/or had no students enrolled in kindergarten and seventh grade. The methods most commonly used by county health departments to obtain the reports were by sending letters to schools, calling, and visiting the schools.

Concerns:

Section 1003.22, *Florida Statutes*, offers no provision for students to attend school without proper documentation of immunizations. However, the validation assessment reveals that 1.2 percent of kindergarten students and 5.2 percent of seventh grade students attend school without proper immunization documentation. County health departments should work closely with schools to exclude and refer these students for needed immunizations and/or documentation before they return to school. In most instances, compliance with the requirement is readily obtained when students are excluded from school.

The validation assessment shows that 4.5 percent of students in seventh grade, and nearly one percent of students in kindergarten, have temporary medical exemptions and require follow-up. County health departments should work with public and private schools to ensure that they maintain adequate follow-up or tracking methods for students holding temporary medical exemptions.

In conclusion, parents, healthcare providers, school health staff, and county health departments must prioritize completion of the hepatitis B series and the other vaccines prior to entry into kindergarten and seventh grade to guarantee adequate immunization and protection of students. County health departments should work with local community partners to promote implementation of the *Standards for Pediatric Immunization Practices* and use of the latest Recommended Childhood Immunization Schedule approved by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, and by all health professionals involved in the immunization of children.

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If you have any questions, you may call Ms. Sarah Samuel, Government Consultant I with the Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342 or SUNCOM 205-4342.

BJS/cha/ss
Attachments

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**IMMUNIZATION STATUS OF KINDERGARTEN AND SEVENTH GRADE STUDENTS
COMPARISON OF ANNUAL IMMUNIZATION ASSESSMENT AND VALIDATION
FLORIDA 2004/05**

	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	ASSESSMENT	VALIDATION	ASSESSMENT	VALIDATION
SURVEY ENROLLMENT	223,895	804	231,206	2,669
PERCENT FULLY IMMUNIZED*	93.7	97.2 \pm 1.4	81.7	90.0 \pm 1.4
PERCENT TEMPORARY MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS	3.5	0.9 \pm 0.9	13.8	4.5 \pm 1.0
PERCENT PERMANENT MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS	0.2	0.0 \pm 0.1	0.2	0.1 \pm 0.2
PERCENT RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS	0.4	0.5 \pm 0.6	0.3	0.5 \pm 0.3
PERCENT 30-DAY EXEMPTIONS	2.0	0.0 \pm 0.0	1.2	0.2 \pm 0.2
PERCENT WITH IMPROPER OR NO IMMUNIZATION RECORDS	0.2	1.2 \pm 0.8	2.5	5.2 \pm 1.0

*For Kindergarten - 5 DTaP, 4 polio, 2 doses of measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella (preferably 2 MMR) 3 hepatitis B, 1 varicella (or 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 2 measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella, 3 hepatitis B, 1 varicella if the 4th DTaP and 3rd polio were given on or after the 4th birthday).

*For Seventh Grade - a booster dose of tetanus-diphtheria, a second dose of measles (preferably MMR) and three doses of hepatitis B.

**STATEWIDE KINDERGARTEN VALIDATION ASSESSMENT
FLORIDA, 2004/05 SCHOOL YEAR**

Survey Enrollment	804
Percent Fully Immunized*	97.2 \pm 1.4
Percent Incompletely Immunized	2.8 \pm 1.4
Percent Proper Documentation	98.8 \pm 0.8
Percent Improper Documentation	1.2 \pm 0.8
Percent 5+ DTaP	93.1 \pm 2.2
Percent 4+ DTaP	99.0 \pm 0.8
Percent 3+ DTaP	99.3 \pm 0.6
Percent 4+ Polio	92.6 \pm 2.3
Percent 3+ Polio	99.1 \pm 0.8
Percent MMR**	98.6 \pm 0.9
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	98.9 \pm 0.9
Percent 2 Hepatitis B	99.3 \pm 0.6
Percent 1 Hepatitis B	99.3 \pm 0.6
Percent Varicella	98.8 \pm 0.9

*5 DTaP, 4 polio, 2 measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella (preferably 2 MMR), and 3 hepatitis B, 1 varicella (or 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 2 measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella, and 3 hepatitis B, 1 varicella with the 4th DTaP and 3rd 3 polio given on or after the 4th birthday).

**2 MMR or 2 measles, 1 mumps, 1 rubella

**STATEWIDE SEVENTH GRADE VALIDATION ASSESSMENT
FLORIDA, 2004/05 SCHOOL YEAR**

Survey Enrollment	2,669
Percent Fully Immunized*	90.0 \pm 1.4
Percent Incompletely Immunized	10.0 \pm 1.4
Percent Proper Documentation	94.8 \pm 1.0
Percent Improper Documentation	5.2 \pm 1.0
Percent Tetanus-Diphtheria Booster	95.7 \pm 0.9
Percent 2nd Measles (MMR)	98.1 \pm 0.6
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	91.4 \pm 1.4
Percent 2 Hepatitis B	96.7 \pm 0.9
Percent 1 Hepatitis B	98.0 \pm 0.7

*Tetanus-diphtheria booster, 2nd measles (preferably MMR) and 3 hepatitis B