



Jeb Bush
Governor

John O. Agwunobi, M.D., M.B.A.
Secretary

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 13, 2005
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Bonita J. Sorensen, M.D., M.B.A. *B. Sorensen MD*
Deputy State Health Officer
SUBJECT: Florida Child-Care Facilities and Head Start Immunization Assessment
2004/05

INFORMATION ONLY

In February, the Department of Health's Bureau of Immunization completed the annual survey of immunization levels of randomly selected child-care facilities and Head Start centers located throughout the state. The field staff visited a total of 107 licensed child-care facilities and 113 Head Start centers from September 2004 to February 2005. The department conducted this assessment to evaluate 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.

Survey Purposes

- To obtain a statewide representation of immunization levels in child-care populations in relation to the state and national goal of 90 percent 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 child-care and Head Start facilities.
- To identify children who are inadequately immunized, have expired certificates, or lack proper documentation of immunizations.

Survey Results

Table 1 in the attachment shows vaccine-specific levels for both Head Start and child-care facilities.

Head Start Centers:

There were 113 Head Start centers randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, the Bureau of Immunization reviewed 1,276 randomly selected records, which included 105 children under 19 months of age and 1,171 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per site).

- Of the 1,171 children 19 months of age and older, 98.2 percent, or 1,150 children, were fully immunized with the basic series 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, appropriate Hib, and 1 varicella vaccination.

Child-Care Facilities:

The results of the child-care assessment survey include records of 519 children under 19 months of age and 1,082 children 19 months of age and older, for a total of 1,601.

- Of the 1,082 children, 19 months of age and older, 94.7 percent, or 1,025 children, were adequately immunized with 4 DTaP, 3 polio, 1 MMR, appropriate Hib, and 1 varicella vaccination.
- Since many of the children less than 19 months of age were too young to have completed their basic series, these results were reported separately (See Table 2).

Concerns

The assessment shows that 8.3 percent of children less than 19 months old who attend child-care facilities are past due for an immunization. These children, as well as those with temporary medical exemptions, 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 child-care facilities to ensure that these facilities maintain an adequate follow-up or tracking method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Agencies responsible for licensing child-care 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 status.

The Bureau of Immunization staff and I thank the child-care facility officials, Head Start officials, child-care licensing specialists, and county health department staff for their help with this assessment. Each of us plays a vital and integral role in the continuing battle to protect Florida's families and visitors from vaccine-preventable diseases.

BJS/cha/ss

Attachments

cc: Beth Englander, Director of Child Welfare and Community-Based Care

Department of Children and Families

Deborah Russo, Director of Child-Care Services

Department of Children and Families

Ron Cox, SMA Supervisor of Child-Care Services

Department of Children and Families

Landis K. Crockett, M.D., M.P.H., Director

Division of Disease Control

Annette Phelps, A.R.N.P., M.S.N., Director

Division of Family Health Services

Shannon B. Lease, M.S., Director

Office of Performance Improvement

Meade Grigg, Director

Division of Planning, Evaluation and Data Analysis

Charles H. Alexander, Chief

Bureau of Immunization

District Child-Care Licensure Specialists

Department of Children and Families

County Child-Care Licensing

County Health Department Nursing Directors

Table 1

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN \geq 19 MONTHS OLD
IN HEADSTART AND CHILD-CARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2004/05**

	HEADSTART	CHILD-CARE FACILITIES
Number Records Reviewed	1171	1,082
Percent Fully Immunized	98.2 \pm 0.8	94.7 \pm 1.3
Percent Proper Documentation	98.0 \pm 0.8	94.8 \pm 1.3
Percent Temporary Exemption	0.3 \pm 0.3	1.2 \pm 0.6
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption	0.0 \pm 0	0.0 \pm 0
Percent Religious Exemption	0.2 \pm 0.2	0.6 \pm 0.4
Percent 30 Day Exemption	0.3 \pm 0.3	0.3 \pm 0.3
Percent 4+ DTaP	98.6 \pm 0.7	96.2 \pm 1.1
Percent 3+ Polio	99.2 \pm 0.5	97.7 \pm 0.9
Percent MMR	99.0 \pm 0.6	97.6 \pm 0.9
Percent Hib	99.2 \pm 0.5	96.4 \pm 1.1
Percent Varicella	98.8 \pm 0.6	96.4 \pm 1.1

Table 2

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN < 19 MONTHS OLD
IN CHILD-CARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2004/05**

Number Records Reviewed	519
Percent Not Due Immunizations	88.4 \pm 2.8
Percent Past Due	8.3 \pm 2.4
Percent With No Form; Enrolled < 30 Days; and Religious Exempt or Permanent Medical Exempt	3.3 \pm 1.5

There were too few children less than 19 months old in Headstart facilities for valid percentages.