



Charlie Crist
Governor

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State Surgeon General

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: September 3, 2008

TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators

FROM: Jean L. Kline, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H.
Deputy Secretary for Health

SUBJECT: Florida Childcare Facilities and Head Start Immunization Assessment
2007-2008

INFORMATION ONLY

In March 2008, the Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization (BOI) completed the annual survey of immunization levels of randomly selected childcare facilities and Head Start centers located throughout the state. The field staff visited a total of 60 licensed childcare facilities and 60 Head Start centers from November 13, 2007 to February 28, 2008. 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 childcare populations in relation to the state and national goal of 90% 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 childcare and Head Start facilities.
- To identify children with adequate immunization levels who have expired certificates or lack proper documentation of immunizations.

Survey Results

Table 1 in the attachment indicates vaccine-specific levels for both Head Start and childcare facilities.

Head Start Centers:

There were 60 Head Start centers randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, the BOI reviewed 554 randomly selected records, which included 17 children under 19 months of age and 537 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per site).

The results of the 537 children 19 months of age and older show 99.8%, or 536 children, were fully immunized with the basic series 4 DTaP, 3 Polio, 1 MMR, appropriate Hib, and 1 Varicella vaccination.

Childcare Facilities:

There were 60 childcare facilities randomly selected statewide. In those facilities, the BOI reviewed 729 randomly selected records, which included 208 children under 19 months of age and 521 children 19 months of age and older (maximum of 20 records per site).

The results of the 521 children 19 months of age and older show 93.5%, or 487 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 13% of children less than 19 months old who attend childcare 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 childcare facilities to ensure these facilities maintain an adequate follow-up or tracking method for children who have incomplete immunizations. Agencies responsible for licensing childcare 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 BOI thanks Head Start officials, childcare licensing specialists, and participating childcare and county health department staff for their assistance with this assessment. Each of us plays an integral role in the continuing mission to protect Florida's families and visitors from vaccine-preventable diseases.

JLK/cha/aw
Attachment

cc: Deborah Russo, Director of Child Care Services
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Mike Boland, SMA Supervisor of Child Care Services
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cc: (continued)

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Table 1

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN ≥ 19 MONTHS OLD
IN HEAD START AND CHILDCARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2007-2008**

	HEADSTART	CHILDCARE FACILITIES
Number Records Reviewed	537	521
Percent Fully Immunized	99.8 ± 0.4	93.5 ± 2.1
Percent Proper Documentation	95.5 ± 1.7	93.9 ± 2.1
Percent Temporary Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	1.3 ± 1.0
Percent Permanent Medical Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent Religious Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	0.6 ± 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemption	0.0 ± 0.0	0.0 ± 0.0
Percent 4+ DTaP	99.8 ± 0.4	96.4 ± 1.6
Percent 3+ Polio	99.2 ± 0.6	97.9 ± 1.2
Percent MMR	98.4 ± 0.4	98.8 ± 0.9
Percent Hib	99.6 ± 0.5	96.4 ± 1.6
Percent Varicella	98.7 ± 1.0	95.6 ± 1.8

Table 2

**IMMUNIZATION LEVELS OF CHILDREN < 19 MONTHS OLD
IN CHILDCARE FACILITIES, BY PERCENT
FLORIDA, 2007-2008**

Number Records Reviewed	208
Percent Not Due Immunizations	80.8 ± 5.4
Percent Past Due	13.0 ± 4.6
Percent With No Form; Enrolled < 30 Days; and Religious Exempt or Permanent Medical Exempt	5.3 ± 3.0

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