



Charlie Crist  
Governor

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State Surgeon General

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August 15, 2007

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

### **Varicella Recommendations**

CDC published "*Prevention of Varicella: Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP)*" in the June 22, 2007 / 56(RR04);1-40 Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) Recommendations and Reports. These recommendations were available online previous to this publication, but were considered provisional until now. The new recommendations include:

- 1) Implementation of a routine 2-dose varicella vaccination program for children, with the first dose administered at age 12-15 months and the second dose at age 4-6 years;
- 2) A second dose, catch-up varicella vaccination for children, adolescents, and adults who previously had received 1 dose;
- 3) Routine vaccination of all healthy persons aged  $\geq 13$  years without evidence of immunity;
- 4) Prenatal assessment and postpartum vaccination;
- 5) Expanding the use of the varicella vaccine for HIV-infected children with age-specific CD4+T lymphocyte percentages of 15%-24% and adolescents and adults with CD4+T lymphocyte counts  $\geq 200$  cells/microliter; and
- 6) Establishing middle school, high school, and college-entry vaccination requirements. ACIP also approved criteria for evidence of immunity to varicella.

### **New Immunization Guidelines**

The Bureau of Immunization is pleased to announce the release of the revised *Immunization Guidelines for Florida Schools, Child Care Facilities, and Family Day Care Homes*, effective March 2007, and incorporated by reference in amended Rule 64D-3.046, Florida Administrative Code, which are effective July 15, 2007.

You may access a copy of the 2007 Immunization Guidelines at the Bureau of Immunization's website at [http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease\\_ctrl/immune/schoolguide.pdf](http://www.doh.state.fl.us/disease_ctrl/immune/schoolguide.pdf).

The guidelines provide technical assistance for healthcare providers, schools, childcare facility operators, family daycare home-operators, school health personnel, and county health department personnel regarding:

1. Immunization requirements
2. Clarifications/exceptions to immunization requirements with respect to certain vaccines

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3. Florida Certification of Immunization (DH 680), including Parts A, B, and C and the electronic signature DH 680 from Florida SHOTS
4. Religious Exemption from Immunization (DH 681)
5. Reporting requirements
6. Special conditions for compliance
7. Disease Control
8. Immunization requirement for public assistance eligibility
9. Confidentiality

In addition to edits and updates, key changes from the 2001 version include:

Effective January 2008:

- Children, age 2 to 24 months, entering or attending childcare or family daycare facilities will be required to have documentation of age-appropriate pneumococcal conjugate vaccine.

Effective school year 2008/2009:

- Children entering, attending or transferring to kindergarten through grade 12 in Florida schools will be required to have documentation of a second dose of mumps and rubella in addition to the present requirement of 2 measles.
- A second dose of varicella will be required for children entering, attending or transferring to kindergarten.
- The 7th grade requirement has been modified to include only Td vaccine (Tdap is acceptable).

You can order the guidelines through the Department of Health (DOH) Distribution Center. Non-DOH entities should print the enclosed Publication/Supply Supplemental Order Form (DH 1464, 7/06) and follow the instructions on the form. The Immunization Guidelines form number is DH 150-615, 03/07, Stock Number 5730-615-0150-4.

- Indicate quantity;
- Call the Distribution Center for applicable shipping charges at (850) 414-8086;
- Include your check number (for shipping charges) with your order so there is no delay in your order.

We updated the electronic and manual versions of the Florida Certification of Immunization (DH Form 680) to reflect the changes in the childcare and school entry requirements. A new electronic-signature version of the 680 is also available. You can access a copy of the DOH Rule 64D-3.046, F.A.C. at <https://www.flrules.org/gateway/readFile.asp?sid=0&tid=4345423&type=1&File=64D-046.doc>.

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Please widely distribute this information to all staff, colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners with an interest in the Florida immunization guidelines.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the revised guidelines, please contact Vivienne Treharne, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC Program vaccine supply, please contact Robert Griffin or your VFC Program Representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander  
Chief, Bureau of Immunization  
Division of Disease Control  
Department of Health

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Enclosure

cc: Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator, Bureau of Immunization  
Bureau of Immunization Field Staff