

**Mission:**

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



**Rick Scott**  
Governor

**John H. Armstrong, MD, FACS**  
State Surgeon General & Secretary

**Vision:** To be the Healthiest State in the Nation

---

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** March 14, 2014

**TO:** County Health Department Directors/Administrators

**FROM:** Celeste Philip, M.D., M.P.H.  
Deputy Secretary for Health

**SUBJECT:** Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment School Year 2013-2014

### INFORMATION ONLY

---

Each October, all public and private schools submit reports indicating the immunization status of their kindergarten and/or seventh-grade students, as required by section 1003.22(8), *Florida Statutes*. County health department (CHD) and Department of Education (DOE) staff compile and submit these data to the Division of Disease Control and Health Protection Immunization Section (Immunization Section) for tabulation. These are then published in the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report (Status Report)*. Because the data are self-reported, the Immunization Section field staff conducts an annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment (Validation Assessment)* to evaluate accuracy of the *Status Report* results and to determine if improvement in immunization levels occurred. Below are the findings of the *Validation Assessment*.

#### **Method:**

The ratio of Florida kindergartens fitting sample selection criteria was 77% public and 23% private. Based on this ratio, of the 120 schools selected as the statewide kindergarten sample, 92 were public and 28 were private. Both public and private schools were selected via simple, random sampling. The public kindergarten population was obtained from the DOE's Membership by School by Grade report; while the private kindergarten population was obtained from the DOE's Florida Private Schools Directory.

Utilizing this same methodology and resources, the ratio of the seventh grade sample was 67% public and 33% private. Of the 120 schools selected, 80 were public and 40 were private. Combining all kindergarten and seventh-grade, public and private schools, field staff audited ten randomly selected immunization records per school, totaling 240 schools (or 2,400 immunization records). The results of this report reflect those 2,400 randomly selected records.

#### **Results:**

- 93.7% of kindergarten students were fully immunized, which is similar to the 93.2% reported in the *Status Report* for all kindergarten students in Florida (State & National goal: 95%).

---

#### **Florida Department of Health**

Division of Disease Control and Health Protection  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases • Immunization Section  
4052 Bald Cypress Way, Bin A-11 • Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719  
PHONE: 850/245-4342 • FAX 850/922-4195

**www.FloridasHealth.com**

TWITTER:HealthyFLA

FACEBOOK:FLDepartmentofHealth

YOUTUBE: fldoh

## Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment

School Year 2013-2014

Page Two

March 14, 2014

- 93.0% of seventh-grade students were fully immunized, compared to 96.6% reported in the *Status Report* for all seventh-grade students in Florida (State goal: 95%; National goal: 90%).
- 5.1% of kindergarten students and 14.9% of seventh-grade students had improperly certified or no immunization record (DH 680 Form) on file. These percentages are significantly higher than reported in the *Status Report*: 0.1% and 0.2% respectively.

This difference is most likely due to the Immunization Section's request for private schools to categorize students who are fully immunized but improperly certified, as "Fully Immunized" on the DH 684 Form and for public schools to categorize this group of students as fully immunized by reporting them in the "Total Certificates of Immunization" category to DOE. A major reason for this request is the substantial number of inappropriately issued Temporary Medical Exemptions (TME) to students who meet school entry immunization requirements.

Additionally, the *Status Report* does not capture students as "Improperly Certified or No Immunization Record." It captures students as "out of compliance," meaning not fully immunized or having no immunization documentation. A comparison of the proportion of students categorized as being "out of compliance" with vaccination requirements for kindergarten showed a discrepancy. Among kindergarten students 0.1% were reported out of compliance in the *Status Report* and 1.2% through the *Validation Assessment*. Among seventh-grade 0.2% were reported to be out of compliance in the *Status Report* and 5.3% in the *Validation Assessment*. One reason for the differences between results of the two reports is, again, the request by the Immunization Section for schools to report fully immunized children who have been certified incorrectly as "Fully immunized" in the *Status Report*.

### **Opportunities for Improvement:**

Section 1003.22, *Florida Statutes*, offers no provision for students to attend school without proper immunization documentation. However, 10.0% of the records audited were improperly documented or missing. The documentation problems seen were due mostly to the following factors statewide:

- Immunization providers incorrectly certifying DH 680 Forms for kindergarten students who met kindergarten vaccination entry requirements, as Part B, Temporary Medical Exemptions (TME), expiring on or around seventh-grade entry; instead of as Part A, Code 1 (Complete).
- Schools are reporting the vaccination status of these students medically exempt (Part B), during compulsory immunization reporting each October. See bullet three, paragraph two from "Results" (above).
- Schools not having and/or effectively using a reliable tracking method for immunization records on incoming transfer students (from another county, state, or country) within 30 calendar days of school entry. This results in reporting as "30-Day Transfer Exemption" instead of "Out-Of-Compliance."
- Schools allowing non-transfer students entry without a valid DH 680 Form or DH 681 Form. These students should be referred to their healthcare provider or local CHD for immunization services, and excluded from school until compliance is met.

Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment  
School Year 2013-2014  
Page Three  
March 14, 2014

If you have questions regarding the methodology of this assessment, please contact our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at 850-245-4342, extension 2395. All other questions related to this assessment should be directed to the Area (county specific) Immunization Section field staff (see enclosure).

CP/CHA/aw  
Enclosures

cc: Monica Verra-Tirado, Ed.D., Chief  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
Department of Education  
Beth Moore, Senior Educational Program Director  
Bureau of Exceptional Education and Student Services  
Department of Education  
Tammy Duncan, Chief  
Bureau of Education Information and Accountability Services  
Department of Education  
Anna M. Likos, M.D., M.P.H., Director  
Division of Disease Control & Health Protection  
R.S. Whisenhunt, Chief  
Bureau of Communicable Diseases  
Kris-Tena Albers, C.N.M., M.N., Chief  
Bureau of Family Health Services  
Rhonda R. White, M.B.A., Director  
Office of Performance and Quality Improvement  
Betsy Wood, B.S.N., M.P.H., Director  
Division of Community Health Promotion  
County Health Department Nursing Directors  
Charles H. Alexander, Administrator  
Immunization Section  
Immunization Section Field Staff

<b>Table 1</b>				
<b>Immunization Status of Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Students Comparison of Annual Immunization Assessment and Validation Florida, 2013-2014 School Year</b>				
	KINDERGARTEN		SEVENTH GRADE	
	Assessment	Validation	Assessment	Validation
Survey Enrollment	233,797	1,200	228,273	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	93.2 <sup>1</sup>	93.7 <sup>1</sup> ± 1.4	96.6 <sup>2</sup>	93.0 <sup>2</sup> ± 1.4
Percent Temporary Medical Exemptions	3.0	2.2 ± 0.8	1.4	0.4 ± 0.4
Percent Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.3	0.0 ± 0.0	0.3	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent Valid Religious Exemptions	1.7	2.7 ± 0.9	1.0	1.1 ± 0.6
Percent 30-Day Exemptions	1.6	0.2 ± 0.2	0.5	0.1 ± 0.2
Percent with Improperly Certified or No Immunization Record (DH Form 680)	0.1	5.1 ± 1.2	0.2	14.9 ± 2.0

<sup>1</sup>Five or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/DT), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. Four doses of DTaP and 3 doses of polio are acceptable if the last dose of each was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

<sup>2</sup>Four or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines (DTaP/DTP/DT) and 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (preferably as MMR), 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. One dose of Tdap and two doses of Td are acceptable if the CDC catch-up schedule is utilized. Three doses of polio vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

<b>Table 2</b>	
<b>Statewide Kindergarten Validation Assessment Florida, 2013-2014 School Year</b>	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	93.7 <sup>1</sup> ± 1.4
Percent Proper Documentation	94.9 ± 1.2
Percent ≥ 4 DTaP	96.8 ± 1.0
Percent ≥ 3 Polio	96.8 ± 1.0
Percent 2 MMR	96.2 ± 1.1
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	97.8 ± 0.8
Percent 2 Varicella	96.4 ± 1.1
Percent Varicella Disease History	0.3 ± 0.3

<b>Table 3</b>	
<b>Statewide Seventh Grade Validation Assessment Florida, 2013-2014 School Year</b>	
Survey Enrollment	1,200
Percent Fully Immunized with Required Vaccines	93.0 <sup>2</sup> ± 1.4
Percent Proper Documentation	85.1 ± 2.0
Percent Tdap	94.3 ± 1.3
Percent 2 MMR	97.7 ± 0.9
Percent 3 Hepatitis B	97.4 ± 0.9
Percent 1 Varicella	95.9 ± 1.1
Percent Varicella Disease History	2.4 ± 0.9

<sup>1</sup>Five or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines including diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, and any acellular pertussis vaccine (DTaP/DTP/DT), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (MMR) vaccine, 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, and two doses of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. Four doses of DTaP and 3 doses of polio are acceptable if the last dose of each was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.

<sup>2</sup>Four or more doses (valid) of any diphtheria and tetanus toxoids and pertussis vaccines (DTaP/DTP/DT) and 1 dose of Tdap (tetanus toxoid, reduced diphtheria toxoid and acellular pertussis), 4 or more doses of any poliovirus vaccine, 2 doses of measles, mumps, and rubella (preferably as MMR), 3 or more doses of hepatitis B vaccine, 1 dose of varicella vaccine (or disease history) are administered. One dose of Tdap and two doses of Td are acceptable if the CDC catch-up schedule is utilized. Three doses of polio vaccine are acceptable if the last dose was administered on or after child's fourth birthday.