



Charlie Crist
Governor

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State Surgeon General

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 18, 2008
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Jean L. Kline, R.N., B.S.N., M.P.H.
Deputy Secretary for Health
SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment
School Year 2007-2008

FOR 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 (CHDs) and Department of Education staff compile and send this information to the Bureau of Immunization (BOI) for tabulation. In May, CHDs receive the results of the annual Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report. The immunization field staff conducts 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. This report addresses the findings of the validation assessment.

Method:

The BOI randomly selected 57 schools with a kindergarten and 57 schools with a seventh grade. The immunization field staff then audited 569 kindergarten student records and 564 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 95.4% of kindergarten students were fully immunized, which is a higher percentage than the 93.6% reported in the Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Status Report for all kindergarten students in Florida.
- The validation assessment revealed that 95.4% of seventh grade students were fully immunized, which is a 1% improvement over the 94.4% reported in the Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Status Report for all seventh grade students in Florida.
- The validation audit also showed 1.8% of students in kindergarten and 1% of students in the seventh grade had improper documentation, or no documentation of immunizations.

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 1.8% of kindergarten students and 1% of seventh grade students attend school without proper immunization documentation. CHDs 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 0.7% of students in kindergarten and 0.3% of students in seventh grade have temporary medical exemptions and require follow-up. This is an improvement over past years. CHDs should work with public and private schools to ensure they maintain adequate follow-up or tracking methods for students holding temporary medical exemptions.

In conclusion, parents, healthcare providers, school health staff, and CHDs 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. Reviews will continue to include the hepatitis B series and second MMR for seventh grade students to assure students moving into Florida have completed these series in addition to the Td.

CHDs 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.

If you have any questions, please call Cameron Noblit in the Bureau of Immunization at (850) 245-4342, extension 2393.

JLK/cha/cbn
Attachments

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