




Rick Scott
Governor

Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H.
Acting State Surgeon General

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 23, 2011
TO: County Health Department Directors/Administrators
FROM: Shairi R. Turner, M.D., M.P.H. 
Acting State Surgeon General
SUBJECT: Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment
School Year 2010-2011

FOR 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 departments (CHDs) and Department of Education staff compile and submit this data to the Bureau of Immunization (BOI) for tabulation. Later, CHDs receive the results of the annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Immunization Status Report*. In follow-up, BOI field staff conducts an annual *Kindergarten and Seventh Grade Validation Assessment* to evaluate accuracy of the status report results and to determine if improvement in immunization levels occurred since the initial assessment. Below are the findings of the validation assessment.

Method:

The BOI randomly selected 120 schools with a kindergarten and 120 schools with a seventh grade. Field staff then audited 1,200 kindergarten student records and 1,200 seventh grade student records in both the public and private sectors.

Results:

- 96.2% of kindergarten students were fully immunized, which is significantly higher than 91.3% reported in the status report for all kindergarten students in Florida (*Target: 95%*).
- 92.3% of seventh-grade students were fully immunized, compared to 94.7% reported in the status report for all seventh grade students in Florida (*Target: 90%*).
- 8.4% of students in kindergarten and 10.9% of students in the seventh grade had improper or no documentation of immunizations.

Concerns:

Section 1003.22, *Florida Statutes*, offers no provision for students to attend school without proper immunization documentation. However, the validation assessment reveals that 8.4% of kindergarten students and 10.9% of seventh-grade students attend school without proper immunization documentation. These percentages are significantly higher than the previous

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school year, with 0.4% and 2.1% respectively. This assessment shows 1.2% of kindergarten students and 1.5% of seventh-grade students have temporary medical exemptions (TMEs) and require follow-up.

County health departments should work closely with schools to ensure they maintain adequate follow-up and tracking methods for students holding TMEs. In addition, schools should exclude and/or refer students who are not in compliance with immunization requirements, or need proper immunization documentation, to their healthcare provider or a CHD.

If you have any questions, please call our survey and assessment consultant, Ms. Amy Wilson, at (850) 245-4342, extension 2395.

SRT/cha/aw
Enclosures

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