

FACTsheet

Florida's Immunization Requirements



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

877.888.SHOT
www.FLSHOTS.com

- Section 381.003, Florida Statutes, establishes programs for the prevention and control of vaccine-preventable diseases. This includes programs to immunize school children and the development of an automated, electronic database or immunization registry.
- Florida law requires that all children receive vaccines protecting against diphtheria, tetanus, polio, measles, mumps, rubella, and other diseases for child-care center or school attendance. For a current list of required immunizations, visit www.immunizeflorida.org/community.
- Shots are required by law for children in attendance at public and private schools, preschools, child-care facilities, and Head-Start programs. Nearly every place that provides care for a child outside the home requires shots, or a religious or medical exemption, to stay enrolled.

FACTsheet

Benefits to Children and Families



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

877.888.SHOT
www.FLSHOTS.com

- Children need vaccinations to stay healthy. Vaccinations protect a child now and in the future by preventing diseases that can sometimes kill or permanently injure.
- Infants are more likely to suffer complications, or even death, if they contract a vaccine-preventable disease. For example, measles is the number one vaccine-preventable disease that kills infants worldwide.
- Almost one-quarter of children age two and under are not age-appropriately vaccinated, which makes them susceptible to vaccine-preventable diseases.
- Florida SHOTS is a tool that can be used to increase immunization levels thereby helping the entire community because increased immunization levels offer better protection for all children. The registry does this by identifying under-immunized children.
- Florida SHOTS helps parents by:
 - consolidating all immunization records for any vaccinations that a child has received from multiple health-care providers
 - providing an accurate, official copy of a child's immunization history for personal, day care, school, or camp entry requirements
 - maintaining a system-certified electronic 680 (once created by a participating health-care provider) which is accessible directly to schools, licensed child-care centers and other medical providers that are Florida SHOTS users
 - helping ensure that a child's immunizations are up to date
 - providing reminders or recalls when an immunization is due or has been missed
 - helping ensure timely immunization for children whose families move or switch health-care providers
 - preventing unnecessary duplicative immunization
 - allowing emergency room access to a patient's immunization status

FACTsheet

History of Florida SHOTS



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

877.888.SHOT
www.FLSHOTS.com

- The concept of immunization registries in the United States began in 1991; however, at that time only a few places in the United States were actively engaged in the development of computerized information systems that could track immunizations.
- One of the Department of Health and Human Services Healthy People 2010 goals is to increase to 95 percent the proportion of children less than six years of age who participate in fully operational population-based immunization registries.
- Currently, all fifty states offer providers a form of immunization registry. The immunization rates and registry participation levels vary across states. Some state immunization registries are now sharing immunization data between states.
- To establish and implement an immunization registry in Florida to be used as a tool to increase immunization levels, the state legislature signed into law an amendment to Florida Statute 381.003 in the year 2000.
- Florida began implementing an immunization registry in 2000.
- Florida SHOTS began loading birth records from the Office of Vital Statistics in January 2003. As of that date all children born in Florida have been automatically added to the system as well as other children that receive services at county health departments or from private providers who are using the system.
- Currently, 100 percent of public providers and a majority of private providers in Florida are enrolled in Florida's immunization registry.
- Children in Florida need more than 20 shots to prevent diseases like polio, measles, and mumps, and Florida SHOTS keeps track of these shots.

FACTsheet

Benefits to Providers



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

877.888.SHOT
www.FLSHOTS.com

- Each year, more than 200,000 children are born in Florida. Each of those children needs between 18 and 23 immunizations by age 6 to protect them from serious but preventable diseases. The growing complexity of the immunization schedule makes it difficult for health-care providers and parents to keep track of which vaccines are due and when.
- Busy practices have found that Florida SHOTS can assist them in the challenges of assessing ever-changing and complex immunization requirements and schedules involving different vaccine manufacturers and combination vaccines.
- Florida SHOTS was designed with functionality that provides the following benefits to providers.
 - Immunization records from all providers are consolidated into one record per patient.
 - Immunization information is accessible 24 hours a day, seven days a week.
 - The registry provides a reliable immunization history for any child, whether a new or continuing patient.
 - It identifies patients' previously reported contraindications.
 - The registry provides definitive information on immunizations that are due or overdue.
 - It produces reminders and recalls for immunizations that are due or overdue.
 - The registry produces the legal immunization record (DH Form 680) required for school, camp, and day care center attendance.
 - It allows providers to create a system-certified electronic 680, which is kept in Florida SHOTS where it is accessible directly to schools, licensed child-care centers and other medical providers that are Florida SHOTS users.
 - It generates immunization reports for managed-care organizations.
 - The registry reduces paperwork by automating inventory, reporting, recall, and reminder functions.
 - It provides current recommendations and information on new vaccines.
 - The registry facilitates introduction of new vaccines or changes in the vaccine schedule.

FACTsheet

Program Overview



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

877.888.SHOT
www.FLSHOTS.com

- SHOTS is an acronym for State Health Online Tracking System.
- Florida SHOTS is a confidential, population-based, computerized information system that collects vaccination histories for children.
- Florida SHOTS was developed by the Florida Department of Health (authorized by Florida Statute 381.003) to be used as a tool to increase and maintain childhood immunization levels, and to eliminate vaccine-preventable diseases.
- The goal of Florida Shots is to increase to 95 percent the number of children age 0 to 6 enrolled in a fully functional immunization registry by the year 2010 (Healthy People 2010).
- The system helps parents and health-care providers keep track of immunization records.
- The registry is accessible to health-care providers licensed under Sections 458 (medical doctors), 459 (osteopathic doctors) or 464 (nurses), Florida Statutes.
- Florida SHOTS allows registered authorized system users to access confidential immunization information via a secure Web-based system. Authorized users may check immunization statuses, update information in the system and print out the legal immunization record for new or existing patients as well as register new patients.
- Florida SHOTS includes all children born in Florida since January 1, 2003, from Vital Statistics birth data loads as well as any child receiving services from a county health department or other health-care provider that participates as an authorized system user.
- Authorized health-care providers can search the Florida SHOTS system for a child's immunization history, forecast a future immunization schedule, and indicate any contraindications to immunizations.
- Florida SHOTS helps ensure that the immunization records required for child-care centers and school attendance are easy to locate and produce.
- Florida SHOTS helps interpret complex immunization schedules, generates reminder/recalls, and will soon help manage vaccine inventories.

FACTsheet

Sources and Subjects



Florida Department of Health
Bureau of Immunization
Bin A-11, 4052 Bald Cypress Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399-1719

877.888.SHOT
www.FLSHOTS.com

The Florida State Health Online Tracking System (Florida SHOTS) is a statewide, Web-based immunization registry that makes it easier for physicians and parents to keep track of a child's immunization history. The registry is a centralized database where health-care providers not only access immunization records but also provide updates that allow for more complete immunization histories in one location. Florida SHOTS also helps doctors keep children's immunizations on schedule by providing reminders of when shots are due, helps prevent unnecessary duplication of shots that children may already have, and provides automatic forecasting of immunizations due based on a child's immunization history and age.

Florida SHOTS is part of a state-approved program through the Florida Department of Health (DOH) Bureau of Immunization (BOI) to enroll private medical practice offices throughout Florida for participation in the registry. The goal of Florida SHOTS is to support the Healthy People 2010 national health objective to increase to 95 percent the number of children age 0 to 6 enrolled in a fully functional immunization registry.

A program contact is available for a variety of immunization and registry topics. For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact the Florida Department of Health Office of Communication, at (850) 245-4111.

You may also visit www.flshots.com or call the toll free number below for additional program information.

Susan Lincicome, M.S.

Director, Florida SHOTS

Florida Department of Health, Bureau of Immunization

Contact: 1-877-888-SHOT or email susan_lincicome@doh.state.fl.us

- Florida SHOTS spokesperson
- Immunization registry advocate
- Involved with children's immunization public health issues