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TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers

FROM: Howard Backer, M.D., M.P.H., Chief
Immunization Branch

SUBJECT: Recommended Immunization Schedule, 2008
Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib) Vaccine Shortage

2008 SCHEDULE

The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) in coordination with the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and American Academy of Family Practice (AAFP) periodically reviews immunization schedules to reflect recent recommendations. The Childhood and Adolescent Immunization Schedules for 2008 were published in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) on January 11, 2008. The recommendations can be found at:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5701a8.htm>

The changes in the schedule reflect the recommendations changed or modified up to December 1, 2007. These are:

- Recommendations for use of the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) now include healthy children as young as 2 years.
- Meningococcal vaccines (MCV4) changes affect certain children aged 2–10 years. The catch-up schedule for youths aged 13–18 years has been updated.
- The tetanus and diphtheria toxoids/tetanus (Td) and diphtheria toxoids and acellular pertussis vaccine (Tdap) catch-up schedule for persons aged 7–18 years has been modified slightly.
- The catch-up bars for hepatitis B and *Haemophilus influenzae* type b conjugate vaccines have been deleted on the routine schedule for persons aged 0–6 years.
- Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV) footnote is updated for incompletely vaccinated children aged 24–59 months, including those with underlying medical conditions.

HIB VACCINE SHORTAGE

The 2008 Schedule was released before one important change. The published schedule is incomplete because it does not reflect the current modified *Haemophilus influenzae* (Hib) recommendations issued on December 19th, 2007 by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). These recent recommendations suspended the Hib booster vaccine dose for most children.

1) Interim Recommendations

Interim ACIP/AAP/AAFP vaccine recommendations:

- Until further notice, providers should defer the administration of the booster Hib vaccine dose usually given at age 12-15 months, except for the following:
 - Children in the following high-risk groups should continue to receive the booster dose.
 - Children with asplenia, sickle cell disease, immunodeficiency such as HIV infection, and malignant neoplasms.
 - American Indian/Alaska Native children.

All children should continue to receive the primary series of Hib vaccine. Providers should register and track children who have been deferred from receiving the booster dose.

The complete ACIP recommendations related to this vaccine shortage are available at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm.

2) Supply and VFC Orders

We continue to receive a monthly allocation of Hib vaccine and currently Hib orders are taking 1-2 weeks longer to fill. Expect that you may receive your Hib vaccine separately from the rest of your vaccine order. All Hib vaccine requests are being processed according to historical vaccine usage and will be reduced to coincide with interim recommendations. A limited number of Pedvax Hib doses are available, upon request, to Tribal/Indian Health Services clinics only. COMVAX is currently not available through VFC. Providers who fall within a bi-monthly or quarterly order frequency are asked to submit monthly Hib vaccine requests.

3) Amended Child Care Recommendations

The suspension of the booster Hib vaccine recommendation and diminished vaccine supply directly affect California's legal requirements for entry into licensed child care and related early-childhood programs. To allow children uninterrupted admission into

these programs, the California Department of Public Health, as permitted by State regulations (17 CCR § 6045), has issued a Special Immunization Schedule that temporarily amends the Hib vaccine requirements. Under the Special Schedule, **one dose of Hib vaccine at any age is required for children 15 months to four years, six months** to attend licensed child care programs. The number of Hib vaccine doses required for children younger than 15 months remains unchanged.

The Special Immunization Schedule is in effect until further notice and is likely to remain in effect throughout 2008. Copies of the Special Immunization Schedule are being sent to all California licensed child care facilities. Facility operators will be encouraged to contact their local health department if they have questions about the change.

If you have any questions, please contact VFC Customer Service at 1-877-243-8832 (1-877-2GET-VFC).

Encl: 2008 Immunization Schedule
2008 Special Schedule, Tables 1 and 2 (Child Care Schedules)

cc: DHS Immunization Branch Field Representatives
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