



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Services



Governor

June 8, 2006

IZB-FY0506-18

TO: California Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Providers  
Health Officers  
Immunization Coordinators

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

SUBJECT: Decreased Availability of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV-4)  
[Menactra®, manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur, Inc., Swiftwater,  
Pennsylvania]

Sanofi Pasteur has recently notified the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that the demand for MCV-4 vaccine will exceed supply at least through summer 2006.

Until further notice, administration of publicly purchased MCV-4 vaccine, including supplies from VFC, to persons aged 11-12 years should be deferred unless they meet one or more of the criteria listed below. Health care workers administering privately purchased MCV-4 vaccine are encouraged to follow these same guidelines. Providers should instead track persons aged 11-12 years for whom MCV-4 has been deferred and recall them for vaccination when supply improves.

CDC recommends that providers continue to use VFC supplies of MCV-4 to vaccinate:

- Adolescents aged 11 through 18 years traveling to countries in which *Neisseria meningitidis* is hyper-endemic or epidemic, particularly if contact with the local population will be prolonged
- Adolescents aged 11 through 18 years with anatomic or functional asplenia, and those with a deficiency in their terminal complement system
- Adolescents aged 11 through 18 years who are infected with human immunodeficiency virus
- Adolescents at high school entry (aged 15 years) who have not previously received MCV-4
- College freshman (through age 18 years) who live in a dormitory setting

Decreased Availability of Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine  
Page 2  
June 8,2006

The announcement from CDC on this topic is available at:  
<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm55d520a1.htm>

For additional information, please contact your local VFC Representative or the VFC customer service line at (877) 243-8832.

#### Enclosures

cc: DHS, Immunization Branch Field Representatives  
Local Health Department CHDP Program Directors  
Vanessa Baird, Chief, Medi-Cal Managed Care Division, CDHS  
Marian Dalsey, M.D., Acting Chief, Children Medical Services Branch, CDHS  
Michael Farber, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, Medi-Cal Managed Care, CDHS  
Susann Steinberg, M.D., Chief, Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health/Office of  
Family Planning Branch, CDHS  
Villita Lewis, Deputy Director, Benefits and Quality Monitoring, MRMIB  
Marcia Ehinger, M.D., Medi-Cal Benefits Branch, CDHS  
Kathy Chance, M.D., Children Medical Services Branch, CDHS