



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Health Services  
Immunization Branch  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
850 Marina Bay Parkway  
Richmond, CA 94804

Toll Free Phone:  
877-2GET-VFC (877-243-8832)

Toll Free Fax:  
877-FAXX-VFC (877-329-9832)

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## VFC Vaccine Supply Update

Dear VFC Provider,

The following is a brief update on current vaccine availability through VFC:

### 1. HEPATITIS A

Merck has informed the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) that they are experiencing shipment delays for their Hepatitis A vaccine, VAQTA<sup>®</sup>, due to a manufacturing change. Until this manufacturing delay is fully resolved, the availability of VAQTA will be affected. It is expected that the product will be available again sometime in early 2008.

Effective immediately and until further notice, the California VFC Program will provide GlaxoSmithKline's product, Havrix<sup>®</sup>, for any Hepatitis A vaccine orders. Both Hepatitis A products may be used interchangeably. At this time, CDC is not recommending any changes in Hepatitis A immunization recommendations.

### 2. VARICELLA

MMR-V will remain unavailable for at least the remainder of the year. Single antigen varicella (Varivax) vaccine is shipped directly from Merck & Co. Merck is experiencing shipping delays due to increased demand. Providers should expect to receive their orders 5-6 weeks after placing them with the VFC office.

### 3. INFLUENZA

The VFC Program is gearing up for the upcoming flu Season. The 2007-2008 "Influenza Packet" will be available the second week of September and will be mailed to VFC providers. The packet will include vaccination recommendations, product availability, billing information, and the 2007-2008 VFC Influenza Order Form, and it will be available for download at [www.vfcca.org](http://www.vfcca.org).

Please do not submit influenza vaccine orders until notified by VFC. Orders received prior to VFC's notification will have to be re-submitted utilizing the 2007-2008 Influenza Order Form.

As in previous years, an initial vaccine supply is expected in mid to late September, with subsequent multiple shipments throughout October to complete our vaccine supply. Therefore, we encourage providers to place an initial vaccine order, and submit subsequent orders throughout flu season. Please do not over-order or place an order larger than you can store in your refrigerator.

All expired or spoiled influenza vaccine (including vials, syringes, and nasal sprayer packages) must be returned to the VFC Program's distributor, prior to the receipt of any influenza vaccine for this season. Return products to: **McKesson Specialty Distribution, 4853 Crumpler Road, Memphis, TN 38141.**

**For any questions, please call a VFC Customer Service Representative at 1-877-243-8832 or visit our website at [www.vfcca.org](http://www.vfcca.org). Thank you!!!**

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