



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Health Services  
Immunization Branch  
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program  
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## Vaccine Unavailability/Delay Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Please note that the following VFC-supplied vaccines are currently **not available** through VFC or significant delivery delays may be experienced:

- **Merck's PedvaxHIB® (Haemophilus influenzae b conjugate vaccine (Hib))**

Merck & Co., Inc. has reported that PedvaxHIB® is currently unavailable for shipment due to a manufacturing issue. It is expected that this product will return to normal availability sometime in the first quarter of 2008. Adequate supply amounts of Merck's ComVax® (Hib/Hepatitis B combination vaccine) and Sanofi's ActHib® product are currently available to meet demand.

In the interim, all VFC requests for single antigen Hib vaccine will be automatically substituted with Sanofi's ActHib® product. Patients who started their Hib series with PedvaxHIB® may complete the Hib series with ActHib®. Depending on the number of PedvaxHIB® doses already received, the number of doses needed and schedule may differ when using ActHib®. Detailed information on dosing and alternative schedules will be forthcoming from the VFC Program and may also be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm#chart>.

- **Merck's VAQTA® (Hepatitis A vaccine)**

Due to manufacturing delays, Merck's Hepatitis A vaccine, VAQTA®, continues to be unavailable through VFC. Normal availability through VFC may occur sometime during the first quarter of 2008. All Hepatitis A vaccine requests are being fulfilled with GlaxoSmithKline's product, Havrix®.

- **Merck's ProQuad® (MMR-Varicella combination vaccine)**

MMR-V combination vaccine continues to be unavailable through VFC. In the interim, providers must place orders for MMR vaccine and Varicella vaccine until supplies return to normal in early 2008.

- **Varicella Vaccine**

Merck continues to experience extended delays in the shipment of Varicella vaccine. Please allow up to 8 weeks for the delivery of your varicella vaccine order. Orders should be placed with a sufficient supply of vaccine on hand to allow up to 2 months for the delivery of this vaccine.

For additional information please visit our website at: [www.vfcca.org](http://www.vfcca.org). Thank you!!!