



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Health Services
Immunization Branch
Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program
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Hib and Flu Vaccine Availability Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Please refer to the following important update regarding the availability of selected VFC-supplied vaccines.

HIB VACCINE SUPPLY

- As a result of Merck's voluntary recall of their PedVax® Hib and Comvax® vaccines, a significant disruption of the nation's Hib vaccine supply will be experienced during 2008. Sanofi Pasteur will remain as the only manufacturer of licensed Hib products. In light of this situation, CDC has issued interim recommendations for the administration of Hib-containing vaccines. Published guidelines may be found at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm56d1219.pdf>.
- CA VFC Program has received a limited monthly allocation of Hib vaccines from CDC and resumed the processing Hib vaccine requests last week. All pending ActHIB® orders submitted to McKesson in Mid December have also been released.
- All Hib and COMVAX® vaccine requests will be processed according to the following procedures:
 - ✓ Any pending Hib order will be approved based on historical vaccine usage and will be reduced to coincide with interim recommendations.
 - ✓ All PedVax® Hib requests will be automatically filled with ActHIB®, unless clinic is a Tribal/Indian Health Service clinic.
 - ✓ When calculating your new Hib vaccine requests, please take into account the temporary deferral of the routine Hib vaccine booster, administered at 12-15 months.
 - ✓ Please do not over-estimate Hib vaccine doses to be requested, and only order what you will need during your ordering period.
 - ✓ COMVAX® is temporarily NOT available through VFC. All pending COMVAX® requests will be substituted with Sanofi's ActHIB® and Merck's Hep B.

INFLUENZA VACCINE SUPPLY

- Additional influenza vaccine supplies have allowed the release of **all** pending influenza vaccine orders. McKesson has begun vaccine shipments and should be expected at provider offices this week. In instances where the preferred product was no longer available, a similar vaccine product was shipped instead.
- Influenza disease activity remains low, and vaccination of susceptible children should continue in January and into February, as these months are traditionally peak months for influenza disease activity.
- For the remainder of this influenza season, VFC will accept flu vaccine orders only for the following products:
 - ✓ Fluzone®-PF 0.25mL
 - ✓ Fluvirin®-Novartis Multi-dose vials
 - ✓ Fluzone®-Sanofi preservative-free .5ml Vials (*limited quantities*)

For any questions, please call (877) 243-8832 or visit www.vfcca.org.