



# IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health  
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## Important Hib Vaccine Supply Update

Dear VFC Provider,

Merck recently announced that their PedVax<sup>®</sup> Hib product will not return to the market until mid 2009. In addition, Sanofi's single antigen ActHib<sup>®</sup> vaccine supply is decreasing. As a result of this continued nationwide shortage of single antigen Hib vaccine, the California Vaccines for Children Program continues to have a very limited Hib supply, which is insufficient to fulfill received requests. It is anticipated that this situation will continue through the greater part of 2009.

In the upcoming months, most of California's federal Hib vaccine allocation will be received in the form of Pentacel<sup>®</sup>, a Hib-containing combination vaccine (DTaP-IPV-Hib). Single antigen Hib supplies (ActHib<sup>®</sup>) have been significantly reduced.

In order to ensure that VFC providers have an adequate supply of Hib-containing vaccines for continued vaccination of infants with the recommended primary Hib series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age, the California VFC Program is taking the following steps:

- **Providers are encouraged to take advantage of adequate supplies of Pentacel<sup>®</sup>**, particularly those practices that are currently using single antigen DTaP, HiB and IPV to immunize infants during their primary immunization series. Practices that may be already in the situation of placing infants in a recall list to receive primary Hib doses, should seriously consider the implementation of this product in their practice to ensure their patients complete their three dose primary hib series.
- Providers that are currently using another combination vaccine and/or practices that may not be able to readily switch to the use of Pentacel<sup>®</sup>, will receive a limited amount of their requested Hib doses. Doses will be based on 75% of the practice's reported monthly Hib usage. Orders may be placed on back order and delayed for up to two weeks depending upon supply. These practices should continue to submit supplemental Hib vaccine requests and carefully track patients who may not be able to complete the recommended primary series. As soon as monthly supplies are received, infants should be recalled to receive the missing doses.
- Limited doses of PedVax<sup>®</sup> Hib will continue to be prioritized for clinics serving primarily American Indian/ Alaskan Native (AI/AN) children, who are at higher risk of invasive Hib disease.
- As a reminder, providers should continue to temporarily defer the routine Hib booster dose administered at 12-15 months of age, except for specific high-risk groups, who should continue to receive the full vaccination series and the booster dose.

### IMPORTANT:

- Hib vaccine shipments will be shipped separately from the rest of your vaccine order. Depending on available supplies, some orders may be placed on back order and delayed for up to 2 weeks.
- Providers receiving Pentacel<sup>®</sup>, this vaccine will be considered their main source of Hib-containing vaccine.

For any questions, please call (877) 243-8832 or visit our website at [www.vfc-ca.org](http://www.vfc-ca.org).