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To: Health Officers  
Immunization Program Coordinators  
Communicable Disease Control Officers  
California Immunization Coalition Members  
Other interested health care professionals

Feb. 10, 2008

## **Special Immunization Schedule Addresses Hib Vaccine Shortage**

In December 2007 Merck & Co. recalled selected lots of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine due to concerns about product sterility. While the manufacturing issue is being resolved, production of both PedvaxHIB<sup>®</sup> and Comvax<sup>®</sup> has been suspended for 2008. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and others, has issued [interim, abbreviated vaccine dose recommendations](#) on December 19, 2007). Sanofi Aventis is now the sole supplier of Hib vaccine.

The suspension of the Hib booster dose and reduced vaccine supply directly affect California's Hib vaccine requirement for entry into child care facilities. This situation is projected to affect up to 100,000 California children this year. Exercising provisions of regulations in California (17 CCR §6045), CDPH has issued a [Special Immunization Schedule](#) which amends the existing Hib vaccine requirement.

Under the Special Schedule, the booster shot of Hib vaccine is temporarily suspended for children 15 months to four years and six months, who for the time being, may enter child care and related facilities after *one dose at any age*. There are no changes in the schedule for children younger than 15 months, who are still required to have doses in the primary series.

[Child care requirement fact sheets](#) (in English and Spanish) were revised to reflect the temporary Hib vaccine amendments, which are expected to last at least for a year.

CDPH Immunization Branch is working with local health departments to notify [health care providers](#) and [licensed child care providers](#) throughout California about the amended Hib vaccination requirements.

The Immunization Branch has coordinated with the California Department of Social Services (DSS) to notify non-licensed family child care centers and other related early childhood programs and stakeholders. For additional information please contact Sandra Jo Hammer at [sandrajo.hammer@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:sandrajo.hammer@cdph.ca.gov).

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## Vaccine-Preventable Diseases

Table 1 below shows provisional data for vaccine-preventable diseases in California with disease onsets from January 1 through December 31, 2007. For additional Branch surveillance data, go to the [Vaccine-Preventable Disease Surveillance page](#). For detailed surveillance data by jurisdiction, contact Jessica Chang at [jessica.chang@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:jessica.chang@cdph.ca.gov).

**Table 1: Reported Cases with Onset in 2007 (by Age Group) and Incidence of Selected Vaccine-Preventable Diseases, California (Provisional Data as of 12/31/2007)**

DISEASE	Age Groups				All Ages	
	0 - 4 yrs	5 - 17 yrs	18+ yrs	Unknown	Cases	Rate <sup>1</sup>
Congenital Rubella Syndrome	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Diphtheria	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
<i>H. influenzae</i> , type B (Hib) <sup>2</sup>	0	1	0	0	1	0.04
Hepatitis A	7	40	449	3	499	1.32
Hepatitis B	0	2	316	4	322	0.85
Measles <sup>3</sup>	0	1	3	0	4	0.01
Meningococcal Disease	41	19	106	1	167	0.44
Mumps <sup>4</sup>	9	20	18	0	47	0.12
Polio	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
Pertussis	144	102	180	1	427	1.13
Rubella <sup>3</sup>	0	0	1	0	1	0.00
Tetanus	0	0	3	0	3	0.01

1. Annualized incidence Rate = cases/100,000 population. Population estimates source: California Department of Finance projections based on the 2000 Census.
2. Invasive *H. influenzae* disease is reportable only for cases < 15 years of age. From January to June 2007, *H. influenzae* disease was reportable only for cases < 30 years of age.
3. Confirmed cases only as of July 2007.
4. Confirmed and probable cases (this is a change from the last version of this table).

Prepared by the California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch

## Fall Assessment Results

The annual child care and kindergarten assessments are conducted each fall to monitor compliance with the California School Immunization Law. Results from these assessments are used to measure immunization coverage among children entering licensed child care facilities and kindergarten.

[Results by county](#) are available on the Immunization Branch website.

### 2007 Child Care Assessment Results

This annual immunization assessment covers children ages 2 years to 4 years, 11 months. Roughly one-third of children in this age group attend licensed child care centers. The following data are only for children in licensed child care centers and may not be representative of the entire population of California children in this age group.

Results from the fall 2007 child care assessment are similar to previous years (Table 2). This year, 93.5% of the 512,490 children enrolled in reporting child care facilities received all required immunizations (4+ DTP, 3+ Polio, 1+ MMR, 1+ Hib, 3+ Hep B, and 1+ Var—or physician-documented varicella disease). There were 863 (0.17%) children with permanent medical exemptions and 7,383 (1.44%) children with personal belief exemptions (PBEs). Immunization coverage was above 95% for each vaccine.

Table 2: Child Care Assessment, 2003-2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of Facilities	9,550	9,925	9,771	9,824	9,965
Number of Children	456,675	487,738	498,860	511,103	512,490
All Required Immunizations	93.4%	93.7%	93.3%	93.6%	93.5%
Conditional Entrants	5.05%	4.81%	5.19%	4.82%	4.89%
Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.25%	0.21%	0.18%	0.17%	0.17%
Personal Belief Exemptions	1.35%	1.26%	1.38%	1.38%	1.44%
4+ DTP	95.6%	96.2%	95.3%	95.2%	95.4%
3+ Polio	97.7%	97.5%	97.0%	96.9%	97.3%
1+ MMR	97.9%	97.7%	97.1%	97.1%	97.2%
1+ Hib	97.6%	98.0%	97.2%	97.4%	97.1%
3+ Hep B	96.1%	96.9%	95.9%	95.6%	96.1%
1+ Var (or physician-documented disease)	96.3%	96.6%	96.2%	96.3%	96.5%

### 2007 Kindergarten Assessment Results

Table 3 shows that the results from the fall 2007 kindergarten assessment are similar to previous years. This year, 92.1% of the 499,301 students enrolled in reporting kindergartens received all required immunizations (4+ DTP, 3+ Polio, 2+ MMR, 3+ Hep B, and 1+ Var—or physician-documented varicella disease). There were 889 (0.18%) students with permanent medical exemptions and 7,811 (1.56%) students with Pies. As with child care results, immunization coverage for kindergarteners was above 95% for each vaccine.

Table 3: Kindergarten Assessment, 2003-2007

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Number of Schools	8,544	8,510	8,496	8,481	8,481
Number of Students	513,519	510,074	512,733	503,160	499,301
All Required Immunizations	92.5%	92.9%	92.8%	92.7%	92.1%
Conditional Entrants	6.18%	5.74%	5.70%	5.74%	6.14%
Permanent Medical Exemptions	0.13%	0.15%	0.15%	0.16%	0.18%
Personal Belief Exemptions	1.16%	1.24%	1.33%	1.41%	1.56%
4+ DTP	96.5%	96.6%	96.4%	96.3%	95.9%
3+ Polio	96.9%	97.0%	96.8%	96.6%	96.2%
1+ MMR	96.8%	96.9%	96.8%	96.5%	96.3%
3+ Hep B	98.1%	98.3%	98.4%	98.4%	98.4%
1+ Var (or physician-documented disease)	98.6%	98.8%	98.8%	98.8%	98.9%

*For additional information, contact Teresa Lee at (510) 620-3746, Teresa.Lee2@cdph.ca.gov, or Madina Sharifi at (510) 620-375, Madina.Sharifi@cdph.ca.gov at the California Department of Public Health Immunization Branch.*

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## New Staff

The Branch welcomes the following new staff!

**Bioterrorism Preparedness Section:** Cheryl Starling, RN recently returned to CDPH as Pandemic Influenza Project Manager for pandemic influenza preparedness and response activities. Cheryl has more than 20 years of leadership experience in health care, emergency management preparedness, planning, and response. Cheryl recently served as Threat Assessment Consultant for Kaiser Permanente, where she developed nationally recognized emergency management programs, and served as Co-Executive Director for the Center for HICS Education and Training. Previously she led the statewide terrorism exercise for the California Homeland Security Training and Exercise Program (HSEEP). In her new role, Cheryl will work with public and private partners to operationalize pandemic preparedness, response and recovery plans.

**Information & Education Section:** Chi Siu is the Branch's new Graphic Designer/Production Artist. Chi worked previously as a freelance designer and owned a small design and print shop. He also worked as a Proof Operator at Bank of America and has been a Prepress/Print Assistant. Chi has a BA from CSU Chico and is studying for his MFA at the Academy of Art University in San Francisco.

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## News Briefs

### Preteen Vaccine Week Event a Hit!



Left: CDPH Director Mark Horton, MD, MPH  
Right: Jonathan Deguzman, National Meningitis Association

The Preteen Vaccine Week kick-off event was a huge success! This year the Immunization Branch partnered with the [San Diego Immunization Branch](#), the [California Immunization Coalition \(CIC\)](#), the [National Meningitis Association \(NMA\)](#), and the [California Distance Learning Health Network \(CDLHN\)](#) to promote preteen immunizations.

Hundreds of preteens and their families gathered around the field during a “half-time” show at the FC San Diego’s Presidents Cup soccer tournament to celebrate preteen and adolescent immunizations. Celebrity DJ Nick V. from Blazin’ 98.9 radio served as event emcee. Dr. Mark Horton, CDPH Director and Dr. Dean Sidelinger, San Diego County’s Deputy Public Health Officer were on hand to reinforce the message that 11-and 12-year-olds need their shots, and that parents should schedule a preteen doctor visit for their preteens.

LA Galaxy team players Chris Klein and Peter Vagenas also supported the event. They kicked goals with preteens and announced that immunizations help preteens stay on top of their game! Izzy the Bear played goalie and showed off his dance moves to the crowd as they listened to CIC’s immunization rap

Preteens cheered with bright orange bang sticks that featured the campaign slogan “Immunizations are your best shot!” The event also served as the public launch for the new preteen website, [www.mybestshot.org](http://www.mybestshot.org) (see Training Resources pages 8-9).

Also highlighting the event was a testimonial from meningococcal disease survivor, Jonathan Deguzman. Jonathan’s compelling story touched parents and preteens alike, reminding them of why vaccines are so important. The Preteen Vaccine Week booth provided information about vaccine-preventable diseases.

Even though the halftime show was over, a stream of kids continued to stop by the booth to ask questions about diseases. They also showed off their immunization knowledge during a game of “IZ Jeopardy.” The two-day tournament proved to be an excellent venue to target both preteens and their families and to encourage them to get up-to-date with their shots!

To learn more about the event or about hosting a similar event in your community, contact Rebeca Boyte at [Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Rebeca.Boyte@cdph.ca.gov).

### **Increase in Autism Rates Despite Decreased Mercury in Immunizations**

A recent study of children receiving services for developmental disabilities in California found that rates of autism continued to increase during the period when mercury preservative was excluded from most routine childhood immunizations. The article appeared in the January 2008 issue of the *Archives of General Psychiatry*, with an abstract available at <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/content/abstract/65/1/19>.

A separate study, published in the February 2008 issue of *Pediatrics* found that the form of mercury used as a preservative in vaccines is cleared from the body at least 10 times faster than researchers had previously believed. This is also inconsistent with the theory that mercury preservative causes autism. The abstract to this article is available at <http://pediatrics.aappublications.org/cgi/content/abstract/121/2/e208>.

These studies come at a time when vaccine safety continues to receive significant public and media attention. Additional information is available from CDC at [www.cdc.gov/autism](http://www.cdc.gov/autism), and on the [Immunization Branch website](#).

### **2008 NIIW Plans Underway**

April 19 through 26 is National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). Local health departments and the California Immunization Coalition (CIC) are planning events across the state. Bi-national events will be held along the border with Mexico in partnership with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO), the US-Mexico Border Health Commission (USMBHC), state and local health departments, and other immunization partners. Hundreds of communities throughout the United States education, and media events to promote infant immunizations.

Visit CDC's NIIW webpage, [www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw](http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw) for resources on planning an NIIW event and to download campaign materials in English and Spanish. To learn more about local NIIW events in California or about planning a local NIIW event, contact Suzi Bouveron at [Suzi.Bouveron@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Suzi.Bouveron@cdph.ca.gov).

## New Name for Immunization Registry



California’s immunization registry system has changed its name to the California Immunization Registry (CAIR) to demonstrate a unified, statewide identity. The new name will be used by all regional registries as well as the State program headquarters. The transition will be phased-in incrementally, as materials are updated and re-branded with the new CAIR logo. For questions about the transition, contact Tammy Pilisuk at [Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:Tammy.Pilisuk@cdph.ca.gov).

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## Upcoming Campaigns, Events, and Observances

Date/ location	Campaign, event, observance	Partners/ sponsors	Website/ contact info
April 8-9	IZ Coordinator Annual Meeting	Immunization Branch	Save the date!
April 13-19	Week of the Young Child: Promoting Excellence in Early Childhood Education	National Association for the Education of Young Children	<a href="http://www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/">www.naeyc.org/about/woyc/</a>
April 19-26	National Infant Immunization Week	CDC, California Immunization Coalition, Local Health Departments	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/default.htm">www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/niiw/default.htm</a> <a href="http://www.immunizeca.org">www.immunizeca.org</a>
May	Toddler Immunization Month	California Immunization Coalition, Local Health Departments	<a href="http://www.immunizeca.org">www.immunizeca.org</a>
May 15-17	26th Annual Western Regional Epidemiology Network (WREN) Conference	Western Regional Epidemiology Network (WREN)	<a href="http://www.wrenconference.org">www.wrenconference.org</a>
March 17-20	National Immunization Conference (NIC) Atlanta, GA	National Immunization Conference (NIC)	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/nic/default.htm">www.cdc.gov/vaccines/events/nic/default.htm</a> for draft agenda and registration information
April 28-29	California Immunization Coalition Summit and Conference	California Immunization Coalition	Sacramento Doubletree Cal Expo
May 8	“From Brochure 2 Blog: Technology and the Changing Health Consumer” New webcast and broadcast; includes a 30-minute documentary and related website with hands-on tools to help public health professionals maximize new technologies.	Immunization Branch	Save the date for the broadcast! A companion website is coming March 1 at <a href="http://www.brochure2blog.com">www.brochure2blog.com</a>

May 21-23	8th National Conference on Immunization & Health Coalitions, San Francisco	San Francisco Immunization Coalition	<a href="http://www.sfimmunize.org/page3.html">www.sfimmunize.org/page3.html</a> to register online  For additional information, contact Andrew Resignato at the San Francisco Immunization Coalition at: <a href="mailto:andrew@sfimmunize.org">andrew@sfimmunize.org</a>
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## Training and Education Resources

Date	Resource	Type of resource/ Content	How to obtain/ contact info
Available now	Hib Vaccine “ <i>Special Immunization Schedule</i> ” and amended “ <i>Childcare immunization requirements</i> ” fact sheet (IMM-230)	2008 amended Special Immunization Schedule; changes requirements for child care entry for children age 15 months to 4 ½ years.  Fact sheets are available in English and Spanish.	<a href="#">Special Immunization Schedule</a>  <a href="#">Fact sheets</a>
Available now	Preteen website	Site invites kids to submit their own videos and podcasts. Also featured are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Online quiz</li> <li>• “Meet Goose Mumps,” with animated clips about three diseases</li> <li>• “Become a Rock Star” game</li> <li>• “Holla” – for feedback from site participants</li> <li>• “Ask Alex and Alexa” -- immunization and health advice</li> </ul> Includes links to other preteen-oriented sites	<a href="http://www.mybestshot.org">http://www.mybestshot.org</a>
Available now	<i>Marketing Vaccines to Tweens Public Health Café webcast</i>	30-minute webcast featuring social marketing expert Susan Kirby, who describes how to put theory into practice to reach preteens	Available free-of-charge online at <a href="http://www.cdlnh.com">www.cdlnh.com</a> under Public Health Café
Available now	<i>NIIW/TIM 2008 Campaign Kit</i>	Contains campaign materials and resources for immunization coordinators, coalitions, and other health advocates to plan, promote and conduct successful NIIW/TIM activities, Includes, tools, templates, and ideas. All documents are formatted in Microsoft Word and can be tailored to local needs. Also contains media planning tools, such as press release templates and a media timeline.	<a href="#">Immunization Branch NIIW Web page</a>
Available now	Disparities Page	New Branch web page with links to materials, data, and other resources	<a href="#">Immunization Branch Disparities web page</a>
Available now	Zoster vaccine page	New web page about Zoster vaccine Contains information about Shingles	<a href="#">Immunization Branch Zoster web page</a>

		disease	
Available now	Registry Champion user testimonials	Collection of updated testimonials from registry users in different regions of the state	<a href="#">SIIS website</a>
Available Now	HPV vaccine brochure, <i>Got a Preteen Daughter?</i>	For parents of preteen daughters  Available in English in and Spanish.	<a href="#">Got a Preteen Daughter?</a>  <a href="#">Español</a> (Spanish)  Paper copies available from <a href="#">local health departments</a>