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TO: California Health Care Providers

SUBJECT: *Haemophilus influenzae* type b Vaccine Shortage
Special Immunization Schedule affecting child care entry

A nationwide shortage of the *Haemophilus influenzae* type b vaccine has recently been announced. Because of the anticipated Hib vaccine supply shortage, 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, issued abbreviated Hib vaccine recommendations, which suspended the booster vaccine dose for most children. The suspension of the booster Hib vaccine recommendation and diminished vaccine supply directly affect California's mandated Hib child care vaccine requirement. The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) Immunization Branch is coordinating an interim resolution that will allow children uninterrupted admission to child care facilities in California. The CDPH has issued a Special Immunization Schedule¹ that temporarily amends the Hib vaccine requirements for children in California who attend licensed child care and related early-childhood programs.

1) RECOMMENDATIONS

Interim ACIP/AAP/AAFP vaccine recommendations:

Until further notice, providers should defer the administration of the booster Hib vaccine dose usually given at age 12-15 months.

Children in the following high-risk groups should continue to receive the booster dose:

- Children with asplenia, sickle cell disease, immunodeficiency such as HIV infection, and malignant neoplasms
- American Indian/Alaska Native children.

All children should continue to receive the primary series of Hib vaccine. Providers should register and track children who have been deferred from receiving the booster dose.

The complete ACIP recommendations related to this vaccine shortage are available at www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm.

¹ The California Department of Public Health requested and received approval for a Special Immunization Schedule (requirements), as permitted by 17 CCR § 6045.

2) REQUIREMENTS

Amended State requirement for children entering licensed child care and related early-childhood programs:

The CDPH 2008 Special Immunization Schedule includes an amended Hib vaccine requirement for all children who attend licensed child care and related early-childhood programs. Under the Special Schedule, **one dose of Hib vaccine at any age is required for children 15 months to four years, six months**. Required Hib vaccine doses remain unchanged for children younger than 15 months entering or continuing in a program.

The Special Immunization Schedule is in effect beginning immediately and until further notice. We anticipate the special schedule will remain in effect for the year 2008. Copies of the Special Immunization Schedule will be sent to all California licensed child care facilities during February. Facility operators will be encouraged to contact their local health department if they have questions about the change.

Thank you for your efforts to keep California's children immunized during this shortage.

Sincerely,



Howard Backer, MD, MPH
Chief, Immunization Branch
California Department of Public Health

Encl: 2008 Special Schedule, Tables 1 and 2

cc: American Academy of Family Physicians
American Academy of Pediatrics, California Region IX
California Medical Association
California Local Health Officers
Immunization Branch Field Representatives
Immunization Coordinators
Gloria Merk, Program Administrator, Child Care Program Office,
California Department of Social Services

Table 1: Immunization Requirements

<i>Institution</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Vaccine</i>	<i>Total Doses Received</i>
Child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, development center	Less than 2 months	None	
Same as above	2–3 months	1. Polio ¹ 2. DTP..... 3. Hib..... 4. Hepatitis B.....	1 dose 1 dose 1 dose 1 dose
Same as above	4–5 months	1. Polio ¹ 2. DTP, or combination of DTP and diphtheria-tetanus toxoids..... 3. Hib..... 4. Hepatitis B.....	2 doses 2 doses 2 doses 2 doses
Same as above	6–14 months	1. Polio ¹ 2. DTP, or combination of DTP and diphtheria-tetanus toxoids..... 3. Hib..... 4. Hepatitis B.....	2 doses 3 doses 2 doses 2 doses
Same as above	15–17 months	1. Polio ¹ 2. DTP, or combination of DTP and diphtheria-tetanus toxoids..... 3. Measles, rubella, and mumps..... 4. Hib..... 5. Hepatitis B.....	3 doses 3 doses 1 dose of each separately or combined on or after the 1st birthday 1 dose at any age. (Changed from “On or after the 1st birthday.”) 2 doses
Same as above	18 months–5 years	1. Polio ¹ 2. DTP, or combination of DTP and diphtheria-tetanus toxoids..... 3. Measles, rubella, and mumps..... 4. Hib ² 5. Hepatitis B ³ 6. Varicella.....	3 doses 4 doses 1 dose of each separately or combined on or after the 1st birthday 1 dose at any age. (Changed from “On or after the 1st birthday.”) 3 doses 1 dose
Elementary school at kindergarten level and above	4–6 years	1. Polio ¹ 2. DTP, or combination of DTP and diphtheria-tetanus toxoids..... 3. Measles, rubella, and mumps..... 4. Hepatitis B ³ 5. Varicella.....	4 doses, except that a total of 3 doses is acceptable if at least one dose was given on or after the 4th birthday 5 doses, except that a total of 4 doses is acceptable if at least one dose was given on or after the 4th birthday. 1 dose of each, separately or combined, on or after the 1st birthday. Pupils entering a kindergarten (or first grade if kindergarten skipped) are required to have 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine, both given on or after the first birthday 3 doses 1 dose
Elementary school, secondary school	7-17 years	1. Polio ¹ 2. Diphtheria and tetanus toxoids, given as DTP, DT, or Td (pertussis not required)..... 3. Measles and rubella (mumps not required)..... 4. Varicella ⁵	4 doses, except that a total of 3 doses is acceptable if at least one dose was given on or after the 2nd birthday At least 3 doses. One more Td dose is required if the last dose was given before the 2nd birthday. (See below for additional recommendations for 7th grade enrollment, effective 7/1/99.) 1 dose of each, separately or combined, on or after the 1st birthday. (See below for additional requirements for 7th grade enrollment, effective 7/1/99.) 1 dose aged 7 through 12 years for students not admitted to California schools before July 1, 2001. 2 doses for students aged 13 through 17 years not admitted to California schools before July 1, 2001.
Seventh Grade ⁴	Any	1. Hepatitis B..... 2. Measles..... Recommended but not required: Tetanus-diphtheria, given as DTP, DT, Td or Tetanus.....	3 doses 2 doses of measles-containing vaccine, both given on or after the first birthday. One Td dose is recommended if 5 years or more have elapsed since the last dose.
Any	18 years and older	None	

2008 Special Schedule affects ONLY the Hib vaccine

¹ Oral polio vaccine (OPV) or inactivated polio vaccine (IPV) or any combination of these vaccines is acceptable.
² Applies only to children entering at kindergarten level (or at first grade level if kindergarten skipped) or below on or after August 1, 1997.
³ Required only for children who have not reached the age of 4 years 6 months.
⁴ Applies only to children (of any age) entering or advancing to the seventh grade on or after July 1, 1999.
⁵ Children admitted to California schools at the Kindergarten level or above before July 1, 2001 are exempt from this requirement.

Table 2: Conditional Admission Immunization Schedule

Vaccine	Dose	Time Intervals
Polio ¹	1st dose..... 2nd dose..... 3rd dose..... 4th dose (Required only for entry to kindergarten level or above).....	Before admission As early as 6 weeks but no later than 10 weeks after the 1st dose. Before admission if 10 or more weeks have elapsed since the 1st dose at the time of admission. As early as 6 weeks but no later than 12 months after the 2nd dose. Before admission if 12 or more months have elapsed since the 2nd dose at the time of admission. Age 4-6 years: If the 3rd dose was given before the 4th birthday one more dose is required before admission. Age 7-17 years: If the 3rd dose was given before the 2nd birthday, one more dose is required before admission.
Diphtheria, Tetanus, and Pertussis FOR PUPILS UNDER AGE 7 YEARS: Diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis (DTP) or combination of DTP and diphtheria-tetanus toxoids OR FOR PUPILS AGE 7 YEARS AND OLDER: Diphtheria-tetanus (Pertussis not required)	1st dose..... 2nd dose..... 3rd dose..... 4th dose..... 5th dose (Required only for pupils ages 4-6 years for entry to kindergarten level and above)..... 1st dose..... 2nd dose..... 3rd dose..... 4th dose..... Recommended but not required for 7th grade entry ² : Booster dose of Td.....	Before admission. As early as 4 weeks but no later than 8 weeks after the 1st dose. Before admission if 8 or more weeks have elapsed since the 1st dose at the time of admission. As early as 4 weeks but no later than 8 weeks after the 2nd dose. Before admission if 8 or more weeks have elapsed since the 2nd dose at the time of admission. As early as 6 months but no later than 12 months after the 3rd dose. Before admission if 12 or more months have elapsed since the 3rd dose at the time of admission. If the 4th dose was given before the 4th birthday, one more dose is required before admission. Before admission. As early as 4 weeks but no later than 8 weeks after the 1st dose. Before admission if 8 or more weeks have elapsed since the 1st dose at the time of admission. As early as 6 months but no later than 12 months after the 2nd dose. Before admission if 12 or more months have elapsed since the 2nd dose at the time of admission. If the 3rd dose was given before the 2nd birthday, one more dose is required before admission. Before entry, 1 Td dose is recommended if 5 years or more have elapsed since the last dose of DTP, DT, Td or Tetanus.
Measles Note: For children entering kindergarten (or first grade if kindergarten is skipped) on or after August 1, 1997, two doses are required. For children entering 7th grade on or after July 1, 1999, the series shall be in process or completed.	One dose only..... 1st dose..... 2nd dose.....	Before admission. If the pupil is under age 15 months, this dose is required when age 15 months is reached. Before admission. As early as 1 month but no later than 3 months after the 1st dose.
Rubella	One dose only.....	Before admission. If the pupil is under age 15 months, this dose is required when age 15 months is reached.
Mumps (Not required for pupils age 7 years and older)	One dose only.....	Before admission. If the pupil is under age 15 months, this dose is required when age 15 months is reached.
Hib Children 2-14 months old Children 15 months–4 1/2 years old	Two doses..... One dose.....	1st dose before admission. 2nd dose as early as 2 months but no later than 3 months after the 1st dose. At any age. (Changed from "Before admission.")
Hepatitis B—For children entering at kindergarten level (or first grade if kindergarten skipped) or below on or after August 1, 1997. For children entering 7th grade on or after July 1, 1999, the series shall be in process or completed.	1st dose..... 2nd dose..... 3rd dose.....	Before admission. As early as 1 month but no later than 2 months after the first dose. Infants and children under age 18 months: As early as 2 months but no later than 12 months after the 2nd dose. Also, no earlier than 4 months after the 1st dose. Children age 18 months and older: As early as 2 months but no later than 6 months after the 2nd dose. Also, no earlier than 4 months after the 1st dose.
Varicella ³ – For children aged 13 through 17 years not admitted to California schools before July 1, 2001.	1st dose..... 2nd dose.....	Before admission As early as 4 weeks but no longer than 3 months after first dose

2008 Special Schedule affects ONLY the Hib vaccine

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² Applies only to children (of any age) entering or advancing to the 7th grade on or after July 1, 1999.
³ Children admitted to California schools at the Kindergarten level or above before July 1, 2001 are exempt from this requirement.