TO:   All Users of State Supplied Vaccines
FROM: Vincent Sacco, MS   James L. Hadler, MD, MPH
Immunization Program Manager   State Epidemiologist
DATE: December 19, 2007
SUBJECT: Hib Vaccine Interim Recommendations

The primary purpose of this communication is to notify you of new interim recommendations issued by the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) for administration of Hib vaccine.

**Hib Vaccine**
As you are aware Merck has announced that Pedvax Hib is currently unavailable for shipment and has voluntarily recalled ten lots of the vaccine due to sterility concerns. Merck does not expect Pedvax Hib to be available again until sometime in the fall of 2008. The only full series Hib vaccine currently being manufactured is ActHib, manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur. Many of you are familiar with ActHib, since we supplied that vaccine for several years through July 2005. As a reminder, ActHib is administered as a 4 dose series at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age. ActHib is a lyophilized powder that is reconstituted at the time of use with saline diluent. Vaccine must be administered within 24 hours of reconstitution. The vaccine is thimerosal free and comes packaged in a box of 5 single dose vials. The CPT code for ActHib is 90648. **Beginning January 2, 2008 and until further notice, all Hib orders will be filled with ActHib.**

**New Recommendations**
CDC is closely monitoring the nation’s Hib supply and has begun rationing doses to individual states due to the limited supply of vaccine. We will try our best to fill your monthly need for Hib but cannot guarantee you will receive all the doses you request. To best manage your vaccine supply and assure that every child gets some protection against Hib disease, please adhere to the following interim ACIP recommendations:

- Healthy children 12-15 months of age who have had a primary series of at least 2 doses of Pedvax Hib or 3 doses of ActHib before age 12 months, should have their booster dose of Hib deferred until the shortage has been resolved. For those who did not complete a primary series, the 12-15 month dose should be given. Providers should keep lists of those children who have been deferred.

- Children at high risk of invasive Hib disease including those with sickle cell disease, leukemia and malignant tumors, HIV and others with weakened immune systems, those without spleens
(asplenia), and American Indian and Alaskan Natives, should continue to receive a full series of Hib vaccine including the booster dose at 12-15 months of age.

**Crossover Vaccine Schedule**
For those patients who have started their Hib series with Pedvax, the following guidelines should be adhered to:

- If the first 2 doses of Pedvax were administered as the primary series, any Hib vaccine including ActHib can be administered for the booster dose at 12-15 months of age when supplies permit.

- If only the first dose of Pedvax has been administered, the primary series can be completed with **2 additional doses of ActHib** administered at least 4 weeks apart, followed by a booster dose of any licensed Hib vaccine at 12-15 months of age, the latter when supplies permit.

Once again we apologize for any inconvenience this may cause your practice. If you have any questions, please call the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.