

**PLEASE COPY THIS FOR ALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS
IN YOUR PRACTICE**

TO: All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

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DATE: February 26, 2008

**SUBJECT: Update: Hib Vaccine Shortage and Temporary Suspension of Day Care
Immunization Entry Requirement**

The primary purpose of this communication is to update you on the **nationwide shortage of Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine and subsequent temporary suspension of day care entry requirements for the booster dose of Hib, likely for all of calendar year 2008.** Given the current shortage, it may not be possible to give a booster dose of Hib vaccine to some 12-15 month old children in a timely enough manner to meet current day care entry requirements. The following information summarizes recent events and recommendations for dealing with the Hib shortage.

Hib Vaccine Shortage

Merck recently announced a recall of certain lots of its Pedvax Hib 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 by Sanofi Pasteur. ActHib is administered as a 4 dose series at 2, 4, 6, and 12-15 months of age. CDC is closely monitoring the nation's Hib supply and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) **has issued interim recommendations to defer the booster dose of Hib vaccine for healthy children 12-15 months of age.** As a result of the vaccine supply problem, **we are temporarily suspending the Hib 12-15 month old booster dose requirement for day care entry.** The suspension will remain in effect until at least several months after the Hib vaccine shortage is resolved, most likely for all of 2008. Once the shortage is clearly over, we will resume enforcement of the requirement but allow a 3-month lag to catch up those children who missed their booster dose due to the shortage. Children under 12 months of age should continue to be age appropriately immunized for Hib (see attached schedule).

We apologize for any inconvenience this vaccine shortage may cause you. As always if you have any questions, please call the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.