



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

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

**TO:** All Users of State Supplied Vaccines

**FROM:** Matthew L. Cartter, MD, MPH *MLC* Vincent Sacco, MS *VS*  
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**DATE:** February 19, 2009

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

The primary purpose of this communication is to update you on the continuing nationwide shortage of Haemophilus Influenzae type B (Hib) vaccine and the temporary suspension of school immunization entry requirements for the booster dose of Hib. **Given the current shortage of Hib, a sufficient supply of vaccine is not currently available to support administering booster doses of Hib vaccine to pre-K and K students under 5 years of age in a timely manner to meet current school entry requirements.**

### Hib Vaccine Shortage

In October 2008 Merck released a statement indicating that the availability of their Hib vaccine product (Pedvax Hib) would be delayed until mid-2009. In the interim, the Immunization Program will continue to offer both the new DTaP/IPV/Hib combination vaccine (Pentacel) and limited quantities of the single dose Hib (ActHib) for providers to immunize patients with a primary series at 2, 4, and 6 months of age. However, the booster dose of Hib for all healthy children must continue to be deferred until adequate vaccine supply becomes available. As a result of the vaccine shortage, **we are temporarily suspending the Hib booster dose requirement for Pre-K and Kindergarten entry students at this time.** The suspension will remain in effect until the Hib vaccine shortage is resolved. Once Hib vaccine supply is adequate, 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. We encourage providers to develop a mechanism to track and recall the children whose booster dose has been deferred due to the vaccine shortage so that they may be vaccinated as soon as possible once the vaccine supply is restored to adequate levels.

As always if you have any questions, please call the Immunization Program at (860) 509-7929.



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