



Charlie Crist
Governor

Ana M. Viamonte Ros, M.D., M.P.H.
State Surgeon General

December 21, 2007

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Interim Recommendations for the Use of *Haemophilus influenzae* Type b (Hib) Conjugate Vaccines Related to the Recall of Certain Lots of Hib-Containing Vaccines (PedvaxHIB® and Comvax®)

On December 13, 2007, a pharmaceutical manufacturer announced a voluntary recall of certain lots of two *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccines, which is expected to result in short-term disruption to the Hib vaccine supply in the United States. A Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Dispatch issued on December 19, 2007 in the Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR), Vol. 56, provides additional details on the expected shortage and interim recommendations for the use of Hib-containing vaccines. You may access the full recommendation at: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/pdf/wk/mm56d1219.pdf> or http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm56d1219a1.htm?s_cid=mm56d1219a1_e.

The recommended vaccination schedule for all available Hib-containing vaccines consists of a primary series (consisting of 2 or 3 doses, depending on the formulation) administered beginning at age 2 months and a booster doses at age 12–15 months. Because of the short-term reduction in available doses of Hib-containing vaccines, CDC, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), the American Academy of Family Physicians, and the American Academy of Pediatrics, recommends that providers temporarily defer administering the routine Hib vaccine booster dose administered at age 12–15 months, except to children in specific groups at high risk, which include:

- American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) children
- children with asplenia
- children with sickle cell disease
- children with human immunodeficiency virus infection
- children with certain other immunodeficiency syndromes
- children with malignant neoplasms

CDC recommends that providers continue to vaccinate American Indian/Alaskan Native (AI/AN) children with available Hib conjugate vaccines according to the routinely recommended schedules, including the 12–15 month booster dose. CDC recommends that providers continue to vaccinate close contacts according to published guidelines. PedvaxHIB® (if available), ActHIB®, and TriHIBit® may be used for the booster doses for these children during this shortage. TriHIBit® is only licensed to be administered at the 12–15 month of age visit.

Hib vaccines also are recommended for use in prophylaxis for susceptible close contacts of patients with Hib disease. AI/AN children not in AI/AN communities or who have already received PRP-TT conjugate vaccines should continue to be vaccinated with available vaccines according to the routinely recommended schedules, including the 12–15 month booster dose. Providers should register and track children for whom the booster dose is deferred to facilitate

VFC Program Participants

Page 2

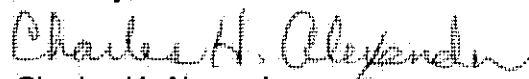
December 21, 2007

according to the routinely recommended schedules, including the 12–15 month booster dose. Providers should register and track children for whom the booster dose is deferred to facilitate recalling them for vaccination when supply improves. ACIP recommends that public health practitioners conduct thorough and timely investigations of all cases of Hib disease. To maximize the amount of available vaccine, providers should order only the number of doses of vaccine required to meet immediate needs (i.e. a supply for up to 4 weeks) and should refrain from attempting to build an inventory of Hib vaccine. The Bureau of Immunization, CDC, ACIP, and other partners will continue to monitor the supply of available Hib vaccines and the epidemiology of Hib disease and provide updates when available.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) maintains a web page with the latest national information about vaccine supplies and provides guidance to healthcare providers who are facing vaccine shortages or delays at: <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm>.

Please widely distribute this information to all staff, colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners with an interest in immunization recommendations. Please display this information prominently on your website. If you have any questions or comments concerning *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) conjugate vaccine, please contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC Program vaccine supply, please contact Robert Griffin or your VFC Program Representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,



Charles H. Alexander
Chief, Bureau of Immunization
Division of Disease Control
Department of Health

CHA/sdh

Enclosure

cc: Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director,
Bureau of Immunization
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