



Charlie Crist
Governor

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

July 7, 2009

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

**Updated Recommendations for Use of Haemophilus influenzae Type b (Hib) Vaccine:
Reinstatement of the Booster Dose at Ages 12 to 15 Months**

The Florida Department of Health (DOH), Bureau of Immunization (BOI) announces publication of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR) 2009*; volume 58, number 24 on June 26, 2009. This publication provides updated recommendations for the use of *Haemophilus influenzae* type b (Hib) vaccine.

You can find the *MMWR* on the CDC website at:
http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5824a5.htm?s_cid=mm5824a15e.

Production of the *Merck & Co.* Hib vaccine products is still suspended. However, beginning in July 2009, *Sanofi Pasteur*, the manufacturer of ActHIB® (monovalent Hib vaccine) and Pentacel® (DTaP-IPV/Hib vaccine), will increase the number of doses of these two products available for use in the United States, resulting in a supply sufficient to reinstate the Hib vaccine booster dose.

Effective immediately, the CDC, in consultation with the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP), American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), is recommending reinstatement of the booster dose of Hib vaccine for children 12 to 15 months of age who have completed the three-dose primary series.

- Infants should receive the three-dose primary series at two, four, and six months of age, and a Hib booster dose on-time at 12 to 15 months of age.
- Older children for whom the booster dose was deferred should receive the booster dose at their next routinely scheduled visit or medical encounter.

Important: While supply is sufficient to reinstate the booster dose and *begin a limited* catch-up vaccination, supply is not yet sufficient to support a mass recall of all children with deferred Hib booster doses.

You can find the recommended routine and catch-up immunization schedules on the CDC website at:
<http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/default.htm#child>.

The BOI will monitor the vaccine supply as the Hib vaccine booster dose is implemented to assure continuing coverage.

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Please contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342, if you have any questions regarding the CDC's recommendations for the use of Hib-containing vaccines. For information regarding the VFC Program's vaccine supply, please contact Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator, or your VFC Program representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

Charles H. Alexander, Chief
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CHA/rg/sdh
Enclosures

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