



Charlie Crist
Governor

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State Surgeon General

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Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Important Pentacel Vaccine Update and Ordering Instructions

The Bureau of Immunization, VFC Program, is pleased to announce that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) have approved the licensure of Pentacel (DTaP/IPV/HIB) vaccines.

Vaccine Ordering (Pentacel)

Pentacel vaccine is now available for ordering through the VFC Program and is shipped in single-dose vials. You can order this vaccine as part of your re-supply of vaccines on your designated vaccine-ordering schedule. Pentacel vaccine is the replacement for stocks of DTaP, IPV, and HIB, and it will reduce your calculated inventory levels for these single antigen products. **Note:** Pentacel is only licensed for the first four doses.

It is important to note that the Florida VFC Program will only be able to supply a limited amount of monovalent Hib vaccine until Merck resumes distribution of their Hib-containing product. Practices are encouraged to order Pentacel to supplement their monovalent Hib vaccine supply to assure infants receive the first three doses of Hib during this temporary shortage.

The VFC Program will closely monitor requests for these vaccines to insure that on-hand supplies of DTaP, IPV, and HIB are taken into account in calculating the amount of Pentacel to be shipped.

Use the revised VFC Vaccine Report form, which includes the recently licensed vaccines to submit your vaccine order request. Discard of old versions of the Vaccine Report form and begin using the enclosed version with your next request for vaccines.

If you have any questions concerning medical aspects of the vaccines or comments regarding the CDC recommendations, contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For information regarding the VFC Program vaccine supply, contact Robert Griffin, VFC Coordinator, or your VFC Program Representative at (800) 483-2543.

Enclosure

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