



Charlie Crist
Governor

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

January 3, 2008

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

The Bureau of Immunization is providing the following immunization updates regarding meningococcal vaccine and vaccine supply.

Use of Menactra® in Children Aged 2–10 Years at Increased Risk for Invasive Meningococcal Disease

On October 17, 2007, the Food and Drug Administration approved quadrivalent meningococcal conjugate vaccine MCV4 (Menactra®, Sanofi Pasteur) for use in children aged 2–10 years, in addition to its prior approval for use in persons aged 11–55 years. This notice provides updated recommendations for meningococcal vaccination among children aged 2–10 years at increased risk for meningococcal disease. The recommendations were approved by The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) at its October 24, 2007 meeting.

The ACIP revised recommendation states that MCV4 (Menactra®, Sanofi Pasteur) is preferable to MPSV4 (Menomune®, Sanofi Pasteur) for vaccination of children aged 2–10 years who are at increased risk for developing meningococcal disease, such as those who have had their spleen removed or whose spleen is not functioning; those with a medical condition called terminal complement component deficiency, which makes it difficult to fight infection; and those who expect to travel to areas outside of the United States, where disease is common. Additionally, MCV4 (Menactra®, Sanofi Pasteur) is preferred to MPSV4 (Menomune®, Sanofi Pasteur) for use among children aged 2–10 years for control of meningococcal disease outbreaks.

You may access the full recommendation at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5648.pdf> or http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5648a4.htm?s_cid=mm5648a4_e.

Please Note: ACIP recommendations for use of MCV4 (Menactra®, Sanofi Pasteur) in persons aged 11–55 years, including a recommendation for routine vaccination with MCV4 (Menactra®, Sanofi Pasteur) of persons aged 11–18 years, have been published previously and remain unchanged.

Update on Vaccine Supply

The CDC maintains a website 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/vpd-vac/default.htm#shortages>.

- **Varicella:** Merck & Co., Inc. continues to experience a vaccine supply interruption and shipping delays of 6 to 8 weeks for Varicella orders. While there is no change in the

routine recommendation, provision of Temporary Medical Exemptions (TME) may still be necessary. Please see the letter from Merck & Co., Inc. regarding its current vaccine supply status at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/var-shortage-12-5-07.pdf>

- **Hepatitis A:** Merck & Co., Inc. is experiencing production delays for Pediatric and Adult hepatitis A vaccine (Pediatric and Adult VAQTA®), resulting in backorders on these products. Merck has temporarily discontinued accepting orders for Pediatric VAQTA® and Adult VAQTA® in the vial formulation. Based on current information, it is estimated that orders of Pediatric VAQTA® received after mid-September will be available for shipment sometime toward the end of the first quarter of 2008. We will confirm actual timing when we know more. There is no change in the routine recommendation. Please see the letter from Merck & Co., Inc. regarding its current vaccine supply status at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/downloads/merck-vac-status-ltr.pdf>.

Glaxo SmithKline (GSK) production and supply of its Pediatric and Adult hepatitis A vaccine (Pediatric and Adult Havrix®) and its Adult hepatitis A and B combination vaccine (Twinrix®) are currently in good supply to meet the demand. GSK has initiated plans to increase production of Havrix® and Twinrix® to help ensure uninterrupted supply for the United States market.

- **Haemophilus Influenzae Type B (Hib):** Merck & Co., Inc. has reported that PedvaxHIB® is currently unavailable for shipment. Based on the latest information, Merck expects PedvaxHIB® (PRP-OMP) to be available sometime in the first quarter of 2008. Merck reports that the exact timing is dependent upon resolution of a manufacturing issue. There is no change in the routine recommendation. Please see the letter from the CDC regarding Merck's current vaccine supply status located at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/recalls/hib-recall-faqs-12-12-07.htm>. If it becomes necessary to complete a Hib series that was started with PedvaxHIB, follow these guidelines:

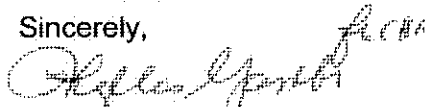
- If the first 2 doses of PedvaxHIB® were administered as the primary series, any Hib vaccine, including ActHIB (PRP-T), may be administered for the dose 3 booster at age 12 to 15 months.
- If only one dose of PedvaxHIB® has been administered, the primary series may be completed with 2 additional doses of ActHIB. There should be a minimum interval of 4 weeks between all doses of the primary series, followed by a 4th dose as a booster at age 12 to 15 months.
- Please consult the Catch-Up Immunization Schedule, located at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/recs/schedules/downloads/child/2007/child-schedule-color-print.pdf>, for the timing of doses for those who start late or are more than one month behind.

The bureau will provide vaccine supply updates as indicated.

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Please widely distribute this information to all staff, colleagues, members, coalitions, and partners with an interest in immunization recommendations. If you have any questions or comments concerning this new recommendation, 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
Florida Department of Health

CHA/sdh

cc: Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Executive Community Health Nursing Director,
Bureau of Immunization
Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator
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