



Charlie Crist
Governor

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

November 26, 2008

Dear Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program Participants:

Important Information Regarding Hepatitis A Vaccine

This is to provide an update on the pediatric/adolescent formulation of hepatitis A vaccine, VAQTA®. Merck & Co. has communicated that its pediatric/adolescent formulation of hepatitis A vaccine will be available for ordering, effective December 1, 2008.

Based on current information, Merck and Co. estimates that their adult vaccine formulation of VAQTA® will be available in late first quarter 2009 or early second quarter 2009.

Glaxo SmithKline production and supply of their pediatric and adult hepatitis A vaccine (pediatric and adult Havrix®) and their adult hepatitis A/hepatitis B combination vaccine (Twinrix®) are currently in good supply to meet demand.

For information on current vaccine shortages and delays, visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/vac-gen/shortages/default.htm>.

If you have questions concerning recommendations for the vaccine, please contact Phyllis Yambor, R.N., Bureau of Immunization, at (850) 245-4342. For further information regarding the VFC hepatitis A vaccine supply, contact your VFC Program representative at (800) 483-2543.

Sincerely,

Signature on file

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

CHA/rg/ir

cc: Robert Griffin, VFC Program Coordinator, Bureau of Immunization
Phyllis Yambor, Executive Community Health Nursing Director, Bureau of Immunization
Bureau of Immunization Field Staff