

VACCINES for CHILDREN
CALIFORNIA



IMPORTANT MESSAGE

California Department of Public Health
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Hib Vaccine Supply Update

Dear VFC Provider,

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently announced the reinstatement of the booster dose of Hib vaccine at 12-15 months on June 26, 2009. However, the limited number of single antigen Hib vaccine (ActHIB[®]) doses available to California and nationwide during the month of September, is currently not sufficient to meet provider demand for the reinstatement of booster doses utilizing single antigen Hib vaccine (ActHIB[®]).

In order to increase coverage of the Hib booster doses and maximize the number of California's children fully protected from invasive Hib disease, we are urging providers to use Pentacel[®] for the booster dose and/or the primary series, especially if you are not already utilizing a pentavalent vaccine. Every primary series where Pentacel[®] is used will allow three VFC-eligible toddlers to receive much-delayed single antigen Hib booster doses.

This request to consider a change in your current practice is based on national vaccine availability and projections for the next month. Please refer to the attached letter recently issued by CDC.

This is very difficult and dynamic situation will soon be alleviated by the introduction of a newly licensed Hib product early this fall: GSK's Hiberix[®], approved by the FDA as booster dose for children 15 months through 4 years of age. **VFC will promptly notify providers when this product becomes available through the California VFC Program.** Reminder: A limited supply of PedvaxHIB[®] is available for providers serving Native American and Alaskan-native VFC eligible children.

Our program is keenly aware of the daily difficulties that you and your staff encounter with vaccine shortages, particularly when dealing with multiple vaccine formulations, or having to switch established products for unfamiliar ones. However, we encourage you to actively engage and educate your staff in discussions about temporary (or permanent changes) to your established vaccines in order to ensure children are appropriately protected while the nation's Hib vaccine supply is restored.

Please call VFC's Customer Service at (877) 243-8832 for any questions.

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